Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-239
Tuesday
13 December 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-239 *13 December 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 December Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on UN Session, Israeli Military Moves *[WAKH]* 3
Bassam Abu Sharif Discusses 'Arafat's Speech *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Spokesman Previews Address *[KUNA]* 3
AL-ANBA' Cited on U.S.-Palestinian Contacts *[KUNA]* 4
PLO Committee To Discuss Stockholm Document *[WAKH]* 4
PFLP-GC's Jibril Comments on Israeli Attack *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
PFLP Appeals to Hamas, Criticizes 'Arafat *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Abu Nidal Group on 'Abd al-Zumar Release *[Athens Radio]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Leaves for Geneva UN Session *[MENA]* 6
Media Commentary on 'Arafat Speech, U.S. Stand 6
'Arafat's Speech Anticipated *[MENA]* 6
'Arafat-Reagan Meeting Urged *[MENA]* 7
Peace Conference Necessary *[MENA]* 8
Arabs Should Alter View of U.S. *[AL-SHA'B 6 Dec]* 8
Ghali Leaves for Vatican, Casablanca *[MENA]* 10
France's Foreign Minister Dumas Visits Cairo 10
Received by Mubarak *[MENA]* 10
Comments After Meeting *[MENA]* 11
Holds News Conference *[MENA]* 11
Leaves Cairo 13 Dec *[MENA]* 11
Libyan Aircraft Pass Through Airspace 12 Dec *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Relations With Tunisia *[Tripoli TV]* 11
'Good Signs' Noted in Reconciliation With Egypt *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 11 Dec]* 13

Sudan

Ministry Denies Charges of Attack on Chad *[SUNA]* 14
Defense Minister on Ending 'Foreign Infiltration' *[INA]* 14
Military Spokesman on Ability To Defeat Garang *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Ministerial Council Prepares for 9th Summit 16
Ministers Begin Talks 11 Dec *[WAKH]* 16
First Working Session Ends *[WAKH]* 17
Bahraini Amir Makes Address *[WAKH]* 18
Council Holds Third Session *[WAKH]* 18
Third Session Concludes *[WAKH]* 18

Final Session Begins *[WAKH]* 18
Council Concludes Meetings *[WAKH]* 18
Ministers Depart for UN Talks *[WAKH]* 19
GCC Finance Committee Ends Meeting in Manama *[WAKH]* 19

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Previews Upcoming GCC Summit *[WAKH]* 19

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Departs for Geneva *[KUNA]* 21

Oman

Information Minister Departs for Geneva *[WAKH]* 21

Qatar

State Minister Leaves for Geneva UN Debate *[WAKH]* 21

United Arab Emirates

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Leaves After Short Visit *[WAKH]* 21
State Minister Leaves for Geneva Meetings *[WAKH]* 21

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Receives PLO's 'Arafat 12 Dec *[INA]* 22
Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Geneva UN Debate *[INA]* 22
Ramadan Makes Statement, Leaves for UAE *[INA]* 22
INA: Iranian Gunboats Search UK Tanker 12 Dec 22
INA Commentator Denies Reconciliation With Syria 22
Paper on Syria's 'Connivance' in Lebanon Attack *[INA]* 22

ISRAEL

Higgins Said Sentenced for 'Spying for Israel' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
'Significant Progress' in Likud-Alignment Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Shamir, Arens, Peres, Rabin To Run New Government *[THE NATION 12 Dec]* 23
Likud, Alignment Reportedly Agree on Guidelines *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Tehiya Ratifies Agreement With Likud *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
SHAS, Degel Hatora To Oppose 'Who Is a Jew' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
'Surprise and Sorrow' Expressed at Shultz Remarks *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Dec]* 24
Weizman, Navon Had 'Reservations' Over Action *[HADASHOT 11 Dec]* 24
Ministers' Reservations on IDF Raid Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Lubrani: Syria Knows Intervention Means 'Disaster' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Syrian Proximity 'Important Factor' for Shomron *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Dec]* 25
Change Seen in IDF Antiterror Methods *[HA'ARETZ 11 Dec]* 26
PLO Wants 'Nothing More' Than Territories *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Dec]* 27
Ben-Aharon Denies Shamir Plan To Crush 'Uprising' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Shamir Said To Back Peace Talks Under Superpowers *[HA'ARETZ 9 Dec]* 27
Shamir: U.S. Relations 'Essential' for Security *[MA'ARIV 11 Dec]* 28
Peres Seeks Superpower Cooperation in Mideast *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Dec]* 28
Pickering as UN Envoy Called 'Good News' *[DAVAR 8 Dec]* 28
Jordanian, Palestinian University Students Clash *[Jerusalem International]* 29
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 29
Year's 'Uprising' Tolls Reported *['AL HAMISHMAR (HOTAM supplement) 9 Dec]* 29
2 Soldiers Wounded in Gaza *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Buses Attacked in W. Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Tear Gas Used in E Jerusalem *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30

Update on 11 Dec Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Dec]* 30
8 Wounded in Firebomb Incident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
3 E. Jerusalem Schools Closed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Curfew Due to 'Arafat Speech *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
'Terror' Squads Uncovered in Gaza Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31

JORDAN

King, Mubarak Hold Telephone Conversation *[Amman TV]* 32
Telephones Saddam, Salih 11 Dec *[Amman TV]* 32
PLO Official on Status of Joint Committee *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 9 Dec]* 32
Meets With Al-Rifa'i *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 32
Foreign Minister Leaves for Geneva UN Session *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Dec]* 32
British Minister Departs Following Visit 9 Dec *[Amman TV]* 32

LEBANON

Group Threatens To Execute Higgins for Spying 33
Hizballah Radio Report *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
VOL: 'No Original Picture' 33
AFP: Killing of Belgian Teacher Goes Unclaimed 33
Teacher's Death Confirmed *[VOL]* 33
State of Alert Follows Amal-Hizballah Clash *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Birri Assails 'Corrupt' Regime, U.S. Role *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Hizballah Calls for Talks With Birri *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 34
Museum Crossing Opens; Supply Convoys Barred *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Resistance Attacks Israeli Position in Rshaf *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Kuwaiti Paper Says Lahd Died 'a Week Ago' *[Voice of National Resistance]* 34

SYRIA

Reportage on Economic Talks With SFRY's Zemljaric 35
Zemljaric Begins Talks 10 Dec *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Confers With Al-Shar' *[SANA]* 35
Visits Prime Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Meets With Transport Minister *[SANA]* 35
Concludes Session *[SANA]* 35
Conveys Message to President *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Departs 11 Dec *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Damascus Radio Views Israel's Lebanon Operation 36

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Downed Plane *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Wakil Departs for UN Geneva Session on PLO *[Kabul Radio]* 37
145th, 146th Violation Notices Submitted *[BAKHTAR]* 37
Iran-Based Alliance Says USSR Wants Direct Talks *[IRNA]* 37
Mujahidin Spokesman on Gorbachev Proposals *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Rebels Kill 8 Kabul Regime Soldiers in Qandahar *[Islamabad Radio]* 38
Mujahidin Operations in Several Provinces Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* 38

Bangladesh

Ershad Felicitates Ishaq Khan on Election *[Dhaka Radio]* 38
PRC Cultural, Journalists' Delegations Arrive *[Dhaka Radio]* 38
Meet With President Ershad *[Dhaka Radio]* 39

India

Three States To Elect Assemblies Next Month *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Darjeeling Gurkha Council Polls Set for 13 Dec *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Better Ties With Pakistan Under Bhutto Seen *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 2 Dec]* 39
Commentary on Science, Technology Pact With PRC *[Delhi International]* 40

Iran

Khamene'i on Contribution of Brotherhood Charter *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Addresses Group on Uprisings *[IRNA]* 41
Commentary on Gorbachev's Troop Reduction Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Besharati Comments on Expansion of Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Poland's Rakowski, Khamene'i Review Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Velayati Sends Message to Yugoslav Counterpart *[IRNA]* 43
Lebanon's Shaykh Shams al-Din Meets Mohtashemi *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Oil Minister Comments on OPEC's Future *[IRNA]* 44
IRNA Cites Lloyds on Naming Iraq Aggressor 44
Drug Smugglers, Addicts Arrested in Lorestan *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Majles on Relations With U.S., Social Problems *[KEYHAN 22 Nov]* 45
Paper Assails Delayed Release of Execution News *[KEYHAN HAVAI 7 Dec]* 49

Maldives

Foreign Minister on Investigation Into Attack *[London AL-HAWADITH 9 Dec]* 49

Nepal

Foreign Minister Returns From China, DPRK *[AFP]* 50
Outlawed Party Leaders Demand Multiparty System *[AFP]* 50
Japan To Give Transportation, Water Supply Grants *[Tokyo KYODO]* 51

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan 'Overwhelmingly' Elected President *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Issues Statement on Election *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Receives Military Leaders *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Takes Oath of Office *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Benazir Bhutto Receives Vote of Confidence *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Addresses National Assembly *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Government Denies Air Force Downed Afghan Plane *[AFP]* 52
Spokesman Welcomes Soviet Contacts With Mujahidin *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Foreign Minister on Indian Espionage Charges *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Foreign Minister on Plight of Muslims in Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
New Chiefs of Radio, Television Appointed *[Islamabad Radio]* 54

Sri Lanka

AFP: Indian Troops Mistakenly Shell Army Camp 54
TULF Supports Leftist Presidential Candidate *[AFP]* 54
Tamil Views on Presidential Candidates Reported *[AFP]* 55
New Chief Minister on LTTE, Other Issues *[Delhi Radio]* 55
EROS Becomes Political Party With New Name *[Delhi Radio]* 56
JVP Announces Curfew Before 19 Dec Elections *[AFP]* 56
JVP Activists Steal Presidential Polling Cards *[AFP]* 56
Hindu Group Warns Against Abrogating Peace Pact *[AFP]* 57
263 'Suspected Subversives' Arrested *[LANKAPUVATH]* 57
Delhi: 27 People Killed in Violent Incidents 57
JVP Frees 5 From Kandy Prison; Weapons Stolen *[Delhi Radio]* 58

13 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1312134288 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Higgins Execution Threat—The "Oppressed of the World" organization announced its "final decision" to execute U.S. hostage William Higgins in a statement to the Beirut newspaper AL-NAHAR.

The statement, which was broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio, said the decision follows "serious confessions" by Higgins which prove he was involved in supplying Israel with information about the positions, movements, and weapons of Lebanese resistance fighters.

The verdict on Higgins has been referred to "competent authorities" for implementation.

AFP noted that the statement to AL-NAHAR was accompanied by a photocopied photograph of the U.S. officer, in contrast to a previous communique that was accompanied by an original photograph.

Assassination of Belgian—A 65-year-old Belgian national who taught English in Beirut was shot dead by gunmen in the Al-Hamra' area 12 December, AFP reported.

PLO Affairs

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, told Israel's YEDI'OT AHARONOT that he hopes PLO-U.S. contacts will begin immediately after the PLO leader's upcoming "historic" speech at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in Geneva.

Abu Sharif added he is prepared to leave for Washington at once "to prove that we want peace."

An anonymous PLO official cited by the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA' stated 'Arafat's speech is likely to include a "clear statement" in response to U.S. conditions, according to KUNA.

Prior to his departure for Geneva, 'Arafat was received by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, INA noted.

Israel

Palestinian Issue, Territories—The Palestinians should direct their declarations toward Israel and not the United States and they should not only talk peace but behave peacefully, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asserted in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio.

What is needed now is a period of calm that will facilitate the holding of free elections in the territories, Peres added.

The entire Gaza Strip was placed under curfew the night of 12 December in light of concern that 'Arafat's UNGA speech will spark off disturbances, Jerusalem radio reported.

Meanwhile, eight people—some of them Arabs—were wounded by a firebomb attack on a bus in Jerusalem, the radio reported.

Coalition Negotiations—IDF radio disclosed that progress was made during lengthy negotiations between Likud and Alignment negotiators, who agreed on guidelines for the new government that are "identical" to those of the previous administration.

Both sides will have 10 ministers, but there is still a dispute about whether Peres is to remain foreign minister or take charge of the finance portfolio.

Syria

Relations With USSR—A Lebanese weekly cited by THE JERUSALEM POST disclosed that Defense Minister Mustafa Talas was recently rebuffed by the Soviet leadership when he asked for more modern weapons.

The Soviet side reportedly told Talas that more modern armaments at this stage could damage Mideast peace efforts and trigger a new war with Israel.

Relations With Iraq—An Iraqi commentator cited by INA denied a Kuwaiti press report about possible reconciliation moves between Syria and Iraq, stressing that nothing has changed in the Syrian regime's stand to make this possible.

Sudan

SPLA on Libyan Involvement—The SPLA's clandestine radio announced that SPLA forces captured a Libyan pilot who ran out of fuel during an 11 December raid on SPLA-controlled areas and was forced to make an emergency landing in his MiG-23.

Both the pilot and aircraft are in "good condition."

Noting that the incident occurred after an intensification of attacks by "foreign" aircraft on targets in the south, the radio said the SPLA will raise the issue of Libyan involvement in Sudan at the OAU and the United Nations.

An earlier report by the radio berated the Sudanese Government for allegedly allowing the Libyan-backed Islamic Legion to reinforce its presence in the Darfur Region of western Sudan.

Coup Attempt—A Khartoum press report cited by the Syrian agency SANA stated that the Sudanese authorities discovered a coup attempt 7 December.

A lieutenant colonel and a number of other soldiers were reportedly arrested after attempting to obtain fuel to supply armored vehicles.

Pakistan

Ghulam Ishaq Khan was elected president for a 5-year term, polling 348 votes in the electoral college formed by the national and provincial assemblies, Islamabad radio reported.

His nearest rival was Nasrullah Khan, who received 91 votes.

In an address to the National Assembly reported by the radio, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto affirmed her government will pursue a policy of forebearance and consensus to safeguard national integrity and sovereignty, uphold democratic values, and strive for the welfare of the people.

Bhutto had earlier won a vote of confidence by 148 votes to 55.

As for relations with Afghanistan, the Foreign Office denied Pakistan was responsible for the downing of an Afghan transport plane on 10 December, asserting Afghan claims in this regard are part of a "vilification campaign" launched against Pakistan by the Kabul regime, according to Islamabad radio.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on UN Session, Israeli Military Moves

JN1212091088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0712 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said he will brief His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on current developments in the Palestinian arena, as well as on international efforts and moves regarding the Palestine question prior to the meetings of the UN General Assembly. These meetings will begin in an extraordinary session in Geneva tomorrow, Tuesday. Their purpose is to discuss the Palestine question after the U.S. refusal to grant 'Arafat an entry visa. This prevented the delivery of the Palestine speech in New York.

In a statement to WAM after arrival in Abu Dhabi this morning, 'Arafat added he will discuss with Shaykh Zayid the latest ongoing developments in the occupied territories in light of the continued valiant uprising. He added this uprising is becoming stronger and more entrenched and will continue, God willing, until the termination of the Israeli occupation of Arab Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

On his expectations about the results of the UN General Assembly deliberations on the Palestine question, Yasir 'Arafat expressed the hope these meetings would result in a comprehensive resolution within efforts leading to a solution to the Palestine question. He said there are several draft resolutions adopted by the Arab countries over which consultations are taking place with the nonaligned countries and other delegations. He noted that the 23-member committee for the Palestinian people's inalienable rights along with other committees are moving actively to secure an international resolution supporting the Palestine question.

Responding to a question on the Zionist enemy's renewed talk about self-rule in an attempt to contain the uprising, the PLO chief affirmed the Palestinian people will continue their uprising. Meanwhile, Palestinian action will intensify to respond to these attempts which are rejected by the Palestinian people.

He also affirmed Israel cannot impose any formula rejected by the Arab people in the occupied territories and that Israel would have imposed self-rule had it been able to do so in the past.

Yasir 'Arafat touched on the recent confrontations between the Israeli enemy and Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon. He said the Palestinian military action in the south has taught Israel a lesson.

However, he warned of a major Israeli military operation. He said the two operations which took place east of Sidon a few days ago as well as the recent operation in Al-Na'imah, Al-Damur, Bshamun, Khaldah, and Bi'wirta are noisy reconnaissance operations in preparation for a large-scale military operation.

Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to deliver Palestine's speech before the UN General Assembly extraordinary 3-day session in Geneva tomorrow.

Bassam Abu Sharif Discusses 'Arafat's Speech

JN1312072088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif summed up to our Cairo correspondent Huda Tawfiq, who is currently in Geneva, the contents of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Geneva today.

[Begin Abu Sharif recording] In his speech, brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will clearly present the PNC resolutions passed during the extraordinary session held in Algiers on 12 November. Brother Abu 'Ammar will also clearly present the Middle East issue and ask the world to help the Palestinian people establish a just peace in the Middle East. He will also ask the world to put an end to all systematic campaigns of terrorism to which the Palestinian people have been subjected over the past year in particular and the past 20 years in general at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces. [end recording]

Spokesman Previews Address

LD1312101488 Kuwait KUNA in English 0955 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Geneva, Dec 13 (KUNA)—Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would use his address to the U.N. General Assembly Tuesday afternoon "to spell out clearly the decisions of the Palestine National Council meeting so that there will be no ambiguities", PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman said.

In comments to journalists late Monday evening he commented "he will answer the questions about ambiguity that some officials in the United States speak about and will discuss the legal basis for convening an international conference".

"Of course he will ask for a United Nations role in the West Bank and Gaza immediately to replace the Israeli occupation forces...for a mandate for a short period of time under U.N. protection", he went on.

"The PNC programme is the basis for achieving a real peace in Palestine", the PLO spokesman said.

"You heard all Palestinian representatives speaking in a political and peaceful strategy to achieve peace on the basis of U.N. Resolution 181—a Jewish state and a Palestinian state", he commented.

"It would be a historic step if the U.S. Administration dealt with the PLO", he said.

"How long will the United States accept to remain isolated, alone in the corner with the world on the other side....it is not a policy for a superpower.

"We hope that the Americans, after this experience in the United Nations (General Assembly) will not use their veto again against the Palestinians and that they will be more positive towards our strategy to achieve peace in Palestine".

The spokesman said that "it is impossible" for Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations at present.

"Our land is under occupation and there are conditions for membership, such as sovereignty", he observed.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat is due to speak at the assembly Tuesday afternoon, and to hold a press conference Wednesday morning.

AL-ANBA' Cited on U.S.-Palestinian Contacts

LD1312100388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0950 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13 (KUNA)—American-Palestinian contacts, took place during the last 24-hour, will come out with "extremely important results", according to a press report here Tuesday.

The results will be unveiled by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat when he addresses the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva later today, local daily AL-ANBA' quoted a prominent member of the PLO Executive Committee as saying.

The PLO member, [words indistinct] anonymity, added that one of 'Arafat's advisors is following the talks in Washington three days ago.

The member said 'Arafat's speech is likely to include "a clear statement in response to the American conditions."

The daily quoted the same source as saying that 'Arafat's advisor, who is currently in Washington, began contacts with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's aides.

Among these demands "PLO commitment in Geneva address to recognize Israel as another state in the region, reject the so-called terrorism and accept long transitional period in the Strip and the bank, as a tes' for the Palestinian intention for living in peace with Israel and Jordan," the source pointed out.

He indicated that the Soviet Union has recently advised the PLO to take advantage of the current contacts with the U.S.

'Arafat's speech is still open pending on the results of these contacts, he said.

Meanwhile, the daily quoted PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani as saying "We would wait for 'Arafat's speech today and American reaction toward it", which is expected to be highly significant.

PLO Committee To Discuss Stockholm Document

JN1212160088 Manama WAKH in English 1518 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 12 (GNA)—The PLO Executive Committee will meet on the sidlines of the U.N. General Assembly's debate on Palestine which will begin tomorrow in Geneva.

UAE AL-ITTIHAD newspaper quoted Palestinian sources as saying the committee will discuss the document of Stockholm declared by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last week at the end of a meeting with representatives of American Jews.

The newspaper added that 'Arafat did not sign the document and left the decision to the Executive Committee.

AL-ITTIHAD added that a delegation of the Executive Committee led by Mahmud 'Abbas has already left for Moscow to consult the Soviets on the document.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Comments on Israeli Attack

JN1112171088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpts] PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril visited Al-Na'imah and Al-Damur after the end of the Zionist military operation against the PFLP-GC positions there. After touring the site, Jibril held a news conference to discuss the Zionist attack. [passage omitted]

Question: Do you think the operation was designed to put pressure on you to accept a settlement and the Palestinian state?

Answer: There is no military action without a political background. The enemy knows we are opposed to the line of concession and capitulation in the Palestinian arena. Therefore, they are trying to soften our resolve and break our will. It is as if they were saying to 'Arafat and his supporters that they will take care of the factions rejecting capitulationist settlements. We believe their operation was timed to get even with us for the heroic Qibyah glider operation of nearly 1 year ago and which triggered our people's uprising in Palestine.

Question: How many Israeli prisoners do you have? And do you think the enemy will react by mounting another operation?

Answer: We have no information concerning the prisoners. When we have definite information, we will let you know. Regarding the Zionist reaction, typically, the enemy consistently retaliates. This has become the hallmark of its policies. In any case, we are always waiting for them.

Question: How will you respond to this operation?

Answer: The core of our strategy is based on clear principles of sticking to armed struggle as a basic approach to deciding the conflict with the Zionist enemy until our national aim of liberating the entire Palestinian soil is fully realized.

Question: Is this the first time the enemy has used dogs?

Answer: Using dogs is nothing new in military history. However, their use by the Zionist enemy is symptomatic of the absence of the conviction to die as martyrs in contrast to Palestinian and Lebanese nationalists. It also shows the Zionist enemy's spinelessness and flinching from confrontation. They wanted these dogs to enter the tunnels so they would be detonated by remote control. You will see a good many of these dogs that fell in action.

Question: What do you think of 'Arafat's recognition of the Zionist entity a few days ago and his meeting with a Zionist-American delegation?

Answer: We know that 'Arafat has knelt before the United States and the Zionist enemy. We in the PFLP-GC and in the PNSF are at variance with him. We maintain that fighting and armed struggle is the only road to Palestine, whereas 'Arafat and his supporters think they can get to Palestine by making concessions and kneeling to the enemies. The two approaches are vastly divergent.

We deem 'Arafat's moves both at the Palais des Pins and in Stockholm concessions that neither he nor anyone else on the Palestinian or Arab stage is entitled to make. No one is entitled to sell two-thirds of Palestine and make a present of it to the Zionist enemy.

Question: Did other allied positions come under attack during the Zionist military operation?

Answer: According to the map of the commander of the Zionist operation, the target was the positions of the PFLP-GC.

Question: What was your casualty toll?

Answer: We have sustained four martyrs and one wounded, including the base commander, Comrade Abu Jamil, who was martyred while moving from one position to another.

Question: This operation has invalidated the peace option and shown that the enemy is always on the lookout for a chance to strike at Palestinian revolutionaries. What do you say to those who want to surrender the Palestinian arena to deviationists?

Answer: We do not think 'Arafat is capable of selling this homeland. The homeland has men, fighters, and people. It will carry on the fight. Bush, Mubarak, and the Zionists will find that 'Arafat lacks the ability to make peace or extend recognition. Many leaders have been condemned to the trash bin after they sold out their nation's cause and 'Arafat is one of these.

Question: How do you regard peace in the region and what is your idea of just peace?

Answer: We are absolutely clear on peace: Unless it is based on justice, peace will be a sham. Just peace means our return to Haifa, Yafo, Nazareth, Lod, and Ramlah. Short of that, peace with the enemy is an impossibility.

Question: What do you think the latest Zionist operation mainly set out to achieve?

Answer: The aim was to destroy our bases, kill our comrades, and capture others to avenge the Qibyah glider operation. The enemy has mounted numerous unsuccessful attacks against us. The operation turned out badly for the enemy since they did not dare enter any of our bases and therefore had to carry out intensive aerial bombing. You can see the traces of the bombardment, which caused mere cracks. We have won from the enemy a respectable amount of weapons and equipment they left behind.

PFLP Appeals to Hamas, Criticizes 'Arafat

JN1212055888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] In a statement issued in Damascus yesterday, PFLP Secretary General George Habash has called on Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, whose activity is concentrated in the Gaza Strip, to participate in the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising. The DFLP had earlier addressed a similar appeal to Hamas.

The PFLP statement also called on all Palestinian factions to return to the PLO's ranks, stressing the importance of collective leadership and proportional representation on the level of the PLO's leadership.

The statement said Yasir 'Arafat's Stockholm statements do not reflect the real meaning of the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers.

Abu Nidal Group on 'Abd al-Zumar Release

NC1312075188 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 0500 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], who is Yasir 'Arafat's opponent in the Palestinian movement, announced in Beirut yesterday that it intends to take Usamah 'Abd al-Zumar, who was recently released from prison in our country, before an EEC [as heard] court. According to a statement by the Palestinian organization, on leaving Greece 'Abd al-Zumar went to Libya and thence to Lebanon. The statement added that the organization's proposal constitutes an answer to the remarks made by the United States following the release of 'Abd al-Zumar.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Leaves for Geneva UN Session

NC1212171888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this evening for Geneva. He will deliver Egypt's address before the UN General Assembly session which will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, at the UN European headquarters to discuss the Palestinian issue.

In a predeparture statement, 'Abd al-Majid said the Palestinian uprising has shifted the balances of power and made an impact which can be felt worldwide.

'Abd al-Majid said that it must be clear now that the current situation and the Israeli occupation are matters which cannot last forever and have to be ended. He added that Israel should accept that change is inevitable in the region.

'Abd al-Majid said that the Palestinians and Israelis have to live side by side. The Palestinians, he said, should attain their rights and live in dignity and freedom. For this to happen, 'Abd al-Majid noted, the Palestinians should exercise their right to self-determination.

'Abd al-Majid said that these are facts which have become clear to the entire world on hearing the resolutions the PNC passed on 15 November in Algiers. These resolutions have won the support of the international community, he asserted.

'Abd al-Majid said: We are convinced of the necessity for coexistence between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

'Abd al-Majid mentioned that he will listen to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, deliver his speech at the session. 'Abd al-Majid added that he will deliver Egypt's address to the session and that Egypt supports the Palestinian issue. 'Abd al-Majid said: We consider the recent PNC resolutions as having implications for the whole world, not simply for Palestinians.

The PNC's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions No 242, 338, and 181 of 1947 and its stands concerning the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state and the possibility of establishing a federation with Jordan, 'Abd al-Majid said, denote the Palestinians' desire to live in peace in the region. 'Abd al-Majid described the PNC resolutions as prudent and even-handed. The resolutions, he said, have won international support and eliminated the doubts some had.

Concerning Arab coordination, 'Abd al-Majid said that consultations are under way and that there are no Arab differences concerning the Palestinian issue. The Arab atmosphere is calmer and better than it was, 'Abd al-Majid said, adding that Egypt is satisfied with the improvement and is eager to see harmony and accord prevail in inter-Arab affairs. 'Abd al-Majid stated that differences of opinion will not bring the Arab march to a stop.

Media Commentary on 'Arafat Speech, U.S. Stand

'Arafat's Speech Anticipated

NC1312094888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—In their Tuesday commentaries, the Cairo dailies express interest in the speech which Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will deliver at the special UN General Assembly session being held in Geneva tomorrow to debate the Palestinian question.

Under the title "The Cry of Right and Justice Will Be Uttered Today," AL-AKHBAR says: A day will come before long when those who tried to stifle the voice and prevent it from reaching the ears of the world community will realize that they have actually given an opportunity to this voice to be heard within a big international demonstration gathering in Geneva to hear the speech of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, who will declare to the whole world that the Palestinian people refuse to remain humiliated captives living under the oppression of a treacherous occupation which defies all legislations and disdains all laws and charters which the civilized world upholds.

The paper emphasizes that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will realize while listening to 'Arafat today uttering the shout of right and justice before all members of the UN General Assembly who went to Geneva, that he was like to the bear who threw a stone at his head to keep away a fly. The odd behavior of Shultz, who volunteered to prevent the Palestinian people's representative from carrying out his right to address the United Nations in New York, has provided the Palestinian cause with much publicity, and the world's reaction has dealt a severe blow to the U.S. Administration.

AL-AKHBAR refers to the request by the U.S. delegate to attend the UN General Assembly's session and deliver a speech during the debate of the Palestinian question in Geneva. It says: We do not know what the representative of Reagan's government will say at this meeting. We do not know what new excuses and pretexts he will provide to justify his government's strange stand on the issue of a people who carry an olive branch to demand their right for life and freedom, just like any other member state of this international organization which embraces a number of states, the populations of which do not exceed several thousand.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says: Undoubtedly there are not a few political analysts who still entertain a glimmer of hope that Washington, which has played no small role in this many years old tragedy, has realized the

big mistake it made against the right of this people and will accept the word of justice and defend human rights, the slogan which has been raised everywhere except in Palestine.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that the speech which Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will deliver at the UN General Assembly in Geneva tomorrow will answer all questions and leave no room for any quarter to pretend that it does not understand what is happening in the Palestinian arena, or to demand more details or concessions from the PLO.

The paper refers to the ongoing negotiations in Israel to form a national unity government, saying: The long time that these negotiations have been going on reflects to a great extent the political impasse in which the two main Israeli parties find themselves in confronting the solid Palestinian front and also the victories that the PLO has recently achieved, which will be crowned by the comprehensive Arab diplomatic move in Geneva tomorrow.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses its hope that the national unity government will be able to make the difficult decision, the decision of a just and comprehensive peace.

Under the heading "In Anticipation of the Speech," AL-AHRAM says: The Palestinian voice will ring out when Yasir 'Arafat says what is right. The paper points out that the United States took a short but positive stand when U.S. President Reagan announced in his last conference before relinquishing the Presidency that Washington will be ready to meet with 'Arafat and hold a dialogue with him when it becomes crystal clear that he is ready to recognize Israel's right to exist as a state.

The paper refers to observers' remarks that new seeds have been sown in a bid to draw closer the Palestinian and U.S. points of view in the ground which has long lain fallow between them. Both sides are trying to improve the climate which suddenly became overcast in the wake of the U.S. denial of the Palestinian stand that was made clear in the PNC's resolutions.

AL-AHRAM adds: What is relatively faulty with the U.S. stand is that it blames 'Arafat, as Reagan said, for leaving gaps through which he can believe that he meant this or that thing, and also that Washington cannot quote him as saying precisely this or that. The paper says: On the other side, there is a big gap in the U.S. stand, because no one knows so far what exactly the United States wants from 'Arafat.

AL-AHRAM asks: Will Washington be content with the emphatic statement which 'Arafat will announce in Geneva tomorrow, or will it open the road afterwards for other attempts and demands which might call for specific written assurances bearing the signature of 'Arafat himself? In conclusion, the paper says: If Washington really wants to prove its good will to the entire world, then it must end this clamor, which is harming it, as soon as possible. It must proceed to adopt every positive gesture by the Palestinian side without making new demands, which do not speed up but delay matters vis-a-vis the new Palestinian approach.

'Arafat-Reagan Meeting Urged

NC1112085088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—In their editions today, the Cairo newspapers denounce the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue. They note that the PNC resolutions clearly accepted Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and renounced all forms of terrorism; nevertheless, these resolutions—which a senior U.S. official has described as fulfilling 90 per cent of the U.S. demands—are not enough from the viewpoint of the United States, which seems to be rejecting in advance all moderate Palestinian resolutions. The press also criticizes the U.S. refusal to grant a visa to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to come to New York to address the General Assembly, thus requiring the UN debate on the Palestinian issue to be held in Geneva.

AL-AHRAM says in its editorial that in Sweden, in the wake of the PNC resolutions, 'Arafat acknowledged the existence of Israel and affirmed the denunciation of terrorism, and sent a message to that effect to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz through Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister Sten Andersson. Even so, the United States continues to insist that the Palestinian acknowledgements and affirmations are either not enough, not clear, or not acceptable. The paper expresses its belief that no matter how many more clarifications of the PLO stand 'Arafat provides from various rostrums, the U.S. position will not change, because the United States has simply decided on rejection in advance.

AL-AHRAM adds that the world still remembers how U.S. officials had stressed, prior to the PNC meeting, that if the Palestinians accepted the Security Council resolutions and renounced terrorism then this would be a positive and encouraging step on the right course. However, when this condition was fulfilled, these officials refrained from supporting this positive step, which was categorically taken by the highest Palestinian body and accepted by the world. The paper recalls U.S. officials' demand that the PLO declare its position officially, claiming that individual satements made from time to time by Palestinian leaders could not be taken seriously because they lack official weight.

The paper adds: But when matters became serious and the Palestinian resolution was issued openly and unanimously from the parliamentary rostrum, it met with a suspicious U.S. retreat that seems to have been determined right from the start. AL-AHRAM then asks: What exactly does the United States want after 'Arafat's personal affirmation of the Palestinian stand? Why did the

Americans ban 'Arafat from delivering his speech in New York, and why are they now calling on him to reiterate the Palestinian stand in his speech in Geneva?

Concluding, the paper says that these ambiguities show that the United States is doing no more than lying in wait for 'Arafat, the PLO, the PNC, and the entire Palestinian issue.

On the other hand, AL-AKHBAR calls on U.S. President Ronald Reagan to meet with Yasir 'Arafat to hear his views and arguments and to seek whatever clarifications he needs, particularly now that senior U.S. and European officials have admitted that the recent Palestinian resolutions are encouraging and open the way for international talks to establish peace in the Middle East. The paper notes here that Reagan met face to face with Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva in November 1985 and that they then had up to five subsequent meetings. The attitude toward the Soviets of the U.S. President, who had accused the Soviet Union of being an "evil empire" and adhered to his hostile stand toward Moscow for 5 years, changed after these meetings.

AL-AKHBAR criticizes the ambiguous way in which President Reagan levelled charges against the PNC resolutions, even though these were very clear in their declaration of acceptance of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and their reaffirmation of the renunciation of all forms of terrorism. The paper notes that all the conditions laid down by Washington have been directed to the Palestinian party alone, a party which has been the victim of aggression right from the start and which is demanding no more than the retrieval of its natural and legitimate right to self-determination, to the liberation of its occupied territories, and to an existence in its own homeland in peace.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR asks: Why does the United States not stipulate any conditions for the Israelis, who have not stopped their aggression against their neighbors for a single day? [passage omitted]

Peace Conference Necessary

NC1212084088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2223 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH newspapers call on the international community represented by the Security Council to join efforts and prepare to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East. The two papers ask all parties to live up to the responsibilities before them, particularly since the Palestinians offered all the guarantees that demonstrate their genuine desire for peace when they adopted the recent PNC resolutions.

In editorials in Monday's editions, both papers emphasize that the Palestinians have offered all that was asked of them and even more. The international community should now take up responsibility and place the issue on the road to a peaceful and honorable settlement so that the Palestinian people can exercise their sovereignty over their state.

AL-AKHBAR says that the Palestinians had been asked to declare their acceptance of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, to recognize the State of Israel and its right to exist, and to renounce what was described as terrorism. The PNC resolutions that were endorsed almost unanimously included a response to these demands in clear words, free of ambiguities. All European and world leaders lauded these resolutions, which could pave the way to a just and peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue and break the deadlock that has engulfed it for dozens of years.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR wonders about what more the Palestinian party is required to do so that Washington and Tel Aviv can be convinced of the seriousness of the Palestinian stand and its true desire for peace. The paper asks: Will the U.S. officials and their Israeli allies disclose their cards and declare the rest of the demands they want the Palestinian leaders to respond to so that the peace process can proceed as hoped? [passage omitted]

Arabs Should Alter View of U.S.

PM1212135188 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Dec 88 p 5

[Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad article: "Enough Appeasement and Kindness to the United States"]

[Text] The Arabs had thought, in good faith, because of its assertions that it was a committed partner in the Middle East peace process, that the United States would welcome the PNC resolutions adopted at the recent session held in Algiers, called the "Abu Jihad session"—martyr Abu Jihad was the victim of Israeli terrorism. This was because all the U.S. conditions had been met, from the recognition of UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 specifically, over and above the previous recognition of all UN resolutions, to the rejection of terrorism outside the occupied territories, to the acceptance of UN Resolution No 181 of 1947 which partitioned Palestine into an Arab state and an Israeli state, to the future establishment of a confederation between the states of Jordan and Palestine.

No such welcome came from the U.S. Administration, however. The justification given by President Reagan in some of his statements was that what was required was a frank, literal recognition of the state of Israel (without any simultaneous Israeli recognition of the state of Palestine proclaimed in accordance with the partition resolution which is considered the basis of the State of Israel's existence). That reflects a desire to humiliate the

Arabs and make the Palestinians go down on their knees without so much as a promise of anything in return and before any negotiations, with no guaranteed results, can be held.

Contrary to expectations, the United States denied struggler Yasir 'Arafat a U.S. entry visa to address the UN General Assembly during its debate on the Palestinian question, which is a topic on the UN agenda, to prevent him from officially announcing the PNC recent resolutions at the United Nations.

Goodwill was stretched to the limit when some people told struggler Yasir 'Arafat that he had in fact been granted a U.S. entry visa on the grounds that this was normal procedure stipulated in the agreement concluded between the United Nations and the U.S. Administration to facilitate the entry of UN employees, members, observers, companions, and guests to the UN headquarters in New York. Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] announced the fact in one of his speeches in Egypt, but then the official decision denying him a visa was announced.

The Egyptian leadership thought that the decision had been hasty and not well studied or that it had been made inadvertently by a U.S. official. It tried to check with the U.S. Administration and to persuade it to change its mind, but the U.S. Administration's reply was to insist on the decision.

Before that, there was an attempt to accommodate the U.S.-Israeli side when Egypt announced its support for the PNC resolutions without actually recognizing the independent Palestinian state. When 40 states (the number has now exceeded 70) recognized the Palestinian state one after another and when doubts and suspicions began to be voiced in interpretations of the Egyptian Government's position, and when asked by reporters about that position, President Mubarak said that "support is stronger than recognition of the resolutions."

That of course was contrary to the axioms of international law, because there is a great difference between supporting a certain position and recognizing a state that has just been proclaimed. Support is merely a political position which could be changed with changing circumstances, whereas recognition is a permanent legal decision. As the PNC resolutions covered more than just the declaration of an independent Palestinian state, recognition of the state and support for the rest of the resolutions could have been combined. At any rate, the Egyptian Government has since taken the sound stance, announced its recognition of the independent Palestinian state, and made its recognition retroactive to the date of the declaration.

I have mentioned these things as evidence of goodwill demonstrated in trying to understand the American tricks and maneuvers; yet I cannot grasp the real U.S. aims in supporting Israel to enable it to achieve its objectives and fulfill its ambitions in the region, in backing it financially, economically, militarily, and diplomatically, and in overlooking all of Israel's abominable and bestial crimes against the Arabs through massacres, assassination of leaders, violation of the sovereignty of independent states, destruction of peaceful reactors and civilian installations, barbaric raids against elderly people, women, and children, and violation of religious holy places, without seeing any of that as terrorism, as violation of international laws and traditions or violation of human rights, when at the same time the United States shakes from head to toe when an Israeli woman is killed in an isolated incident whereby a bomb is thrown at an Israeli bus after a Palestine child is killed by an act of Israeli terrorism in the same place.

I was surprised to see a trend in the so-called national government papers which sees the decision not to grant an entry visa to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat as an individual decision made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz without consultation with or reference to the ruling leadership or the various departments of the U.S. Administration. These papers overlook the fact that the United States is a country of institutions and not a Third World state where power is in the hands of one single ruler.

They think they can deceive the Arab nation into directing all its wrath not against the United States as a whole but against Shultz personally in the hope—as good a hope as Satan has of going to heaven—of absolving the new U.S. Administration of responsibility for a decision which could not have possibly been made without reference to the new President George Bush, because the tradition there is for the President-elect to be consulted on all important decisions made during the transition period. This is particularly so in this case whereby the new administration comes from the same party and the new president is himself the vice president in the current administration.

Answering those urging him to respect the feelings and aspirations of the Arab states, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger once made his famous statement that "the Arabs' friendship is valueless and their enmity harmless."

So, could the United States possibly be made to feel that the Arab nation could in fact harm U.S. interests in the Arab world and elsewhere if the United States angered the Arabs, denied them their rights, and supported Israeli aggression against them, regardless of whether these U.S. interests are legitimate or illegitimate?

Are the Arab regimes capable of taking a unified stand in the face of the anti-Arab, totally pro-Israel U.S. stance and the U.S. lack of credibility following its recent behavior, when it set terms for settling the Palestinian question but ditched the peace efforts in the region as soon as the PNC went along with what it was requesting? It has been established that what it did was nothing but a maneuver to gain time and to portray the PLO as an

intransigent organization which rejected U.S. demands, and in so doing it wanted to enable Israel to abort the Palestinian uprising and to pursue its aggressive, expansionist ambitions in the region with U.S. backing and support.

We say it frankly: Wake up Arabs; unite your ranks, Arab rulers; and do not think favorably of the real intentions of the U.S. leadership, which is linked to Israel by strategic agreements in all fields making Israel a U.S. state planted in the heart of the Arab world to prevent it from turning its attention to progress and development and to weaken it with successive wars, sometimes even wars to discipline it for disobeying the United States.

We are not advocating a declaration of war on the United States, but we are saying that we should depend on ourselves and not fall into their traps, where they can control and subjugate us. Let us cooperate with Arab organizations and funds instead of seeking U.S. loans labeled "aid" (because the terms are easier than what is available in finance markets). This practice has placed us, particularly Egypt, in the trap of subservience to the United States through the pressure to repay these debts and to pay interest on them and has resulted in dictated policies in the name of "economic reform" ensuring U.S. interests through the IMF in return for agreeing to postpone the repayment of debts. That has deprived our government of freedom of economic movement and lost the country its economic independence without solving our problems.

U.S. aid has not enabled us to build a factory or reclaim land. It was used for purchase of consumer goods and conventional arms less effective that the weapons given to Israel, and for studies under the supervision of their own experts to obtain information on all aspects of our society.

Let our commercial and economic dealings be with EEC states, Japan, and the Eastern bloc states instead of this U.S. monopoly, which has given the U.S. dollar control of our market with its value rising steadily here but falling against other world currencies.

Let us reconsider the U.S. interests in the region, particularly oil interests. Perhaps the British prime minister's action could serve as an example: She introduced new legislation reducing Kuwait's share in the capital of British Petroleum to prevent Kuwait from controlling that company.

U.S. lethal weapons should not scare us if we arm ourselves with strong faith and if we resolutely struggle for that faith and prefer martyrdom to the acceptance of humiliation and shame in this world. It is not long ago since the fedayeen managed with their booby-trapped car (that is, a car laden with explosives) to storm the U.S. marines headquarters in southern Lebanon and to blow it up with everything in it, undeterred by all the sophisticated weapons and complex early warning systems installed there to protect it, forcing the marines to withdraw to the 6th Fleet in the Red Sea, never to return.

We cannot but thank the PNC and struggler leader Yasir 'Arafat for all the resolutions adopted, repudiating all the U.S. pretexts used in Israel's interests and exposing the real U.S. intentions toward the Arabs. We also thank the U.S. Administration for unveiling its anti-Arab face and demonstrating that it will never take a just, neutral stand when it comes to Israel, even if the Arabs go down on their knees and let themselves be walked over. Shultz was not expressing his own personal views, nor was he merely expressing the Reagan administration's views. He was expressing the views of both the Reagan and Bush administrations.

The Arabs and their rulers should learn this great lesson and should realize that the fault lies not in the U.S. position but in the Arab position of long silence about the crimes committed by the United States against the Arab people and about its blind support for Israel. It is time to correct the Arabs' attitude to the United States without again resorting to the illusion of correcting the U.S. attitude to the Arab nation.

Ghali Leaves for Vatican, Casablanca

NC1212081788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left this morning for Casablanca, where he will represent President Husni Mubarak at the 15th French-African summit.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghali said this is the first time that this summit is being held in an Arab country. He added that the main subject on the agenda of the summit is detente between East and West and its economic and strategic effects on the dialogue between North and South. He noted that the agenda includes many other topics that seek to promote inter-African solidarity and cooperation.

On his way to Casablanca, Dr Ghali will stop over in Rome, where he will meet with Pope John Paul II and deliver a written message to him from President Husni Mubarak. The message deals with the latest developments in the Middle East and the Vatican's role in establishing peace in the region and in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle and right for self-determination.

France's Foreign Minister Dumas Visits Cairo

Received by Mubarak

NC1212104188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received French Foreign Minister

Roland Dumas, who is visiting Cairo. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Pierre Hunt, the French ambassador in Cairo, attended the meeting.

Comments After Meeting

NC1212114288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas expressed his pleasure at his meeting with President Mubarak today. He said that important discussions were held during the meeting covering all problems, including the situation in the Middle East and the recent moves in the region.

The French minister stressed the need for a continued exchange of views between Egypt and France as the relations between them are very good. He said: I can say we always speak as friends with the Egyptian officials. This feeling was strengthened during my meeting with President Mubarak today.

Dumas added that the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese crisis, and all current issues in the region were discussed during the meeting.

Holds News Conference

NC1212214488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has described his talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials as fruitful. He said the talks dealt with international problems, particularly the Middle East issue and the relations between Egypt and France, which are continuously developing.

Dumas held a news conference at the French Embassy in Cairo this evening. He noted that President Mubarak expressed his welcome of the French stance on the issue of debts. He added that convening the international peace conference is the topic of the hour and that both Egypt and France hold identical views in this regard. Dumas went on to say that the international peace conference should be a successful opportunity for direct dialogue among the parties concerned.

He maintained that the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers are rational, reflecting the PLO's desire to shoulder its responsibilities. He added that the PLO has represented its people in a responsible manner. He emphasized that his country hopes that peace will be established in the Middle East and that it supports all steps that are bound to achieve this peace.

The French foreign minister noted that France's role is primarily based on its relations with several friendly Arab states and Israel. This role is also based on France's status within the EEC, he added.

To a question about his upcoming visit to Iran, Dumas said the date of this visit has not yet been slated, adding that France has resumed its normal relations with Iran in accordance with a program that includes France's participation in Iran's international fair, resumption of flights between the two countries, and the resumption of economic relations in the field of oil.

Dumas emphasized that France is at the same time an important partner of Iraq and that both countries are linked with strong ties. He said his country is participating in the reconstruction operations and supports all the initiatives by the United Nations to ensure continuation of negotiations between Iraq and Iran to establish peace in the Gulf area. [passage omitted]

Leaves Cairo 13 Dec

NC1312092588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Cairo this morning following a 2-day visit, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

During his stay in Egypt Dumas also held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the latest developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations. The two ministers also discussed the rescheduling of debts and the current economic situation.

Dumas was seen off by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi.

Libyan Aircraft Pass Through Airspace 12 Dec

NC1212181188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Today four Libyan civilian airliners carrying Libyan pilgrims passed through Egyptian airspace on their way from Bengazi to Jeddah. It should be recalled that Egyptian authorities opened Egyptian airspace on 4 December and allowed eight Libyan aircraft carrying pilgrims to land for transit and refueling.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Relations With Tunisia

LD1312025088 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has affirmed that the talks which began 7 November and continued until today centered on the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia's sincerity for realizing Arab unity, be it between Libya and Tunisia, among Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia, or at the level of the greater Arab Maghreb and the comprehensive unity of the Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf.

He said: I hope that the popular masses in the greater Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation, especially in Tunisia and Libya, will support these trends. The brother leader added in a statement to the Safaqis radio in fraternal Tunisia that the uninterrupted talks with the Tunisian brothers centered on providing economic support for Tunisia at this stage so that Tunisia will not continue to be pressured by the imperialists, who were unhappy with the change that took place in fraternal Tunisia after 7 November and accepted it reluctantly.

The brother leader explained that before 7 November, Tunisia was dead. Now it has become alive after the change. Therefore, I asked that Tunisian history, sacrifices, and struggles along the road of freedom and resisting the enemies—a history that had been wiped out and has been unheard—be set forth, the brother leader said. He said that these sacrifices had been credited to one person. Tunisia appeared to our Arab nation, Africa, and the world as if it had made no popular sacrifices.

He added that Tunisia, after 7 November now talks about its future, but it does not talk about its identity. Therefore, I tried to explain this identity in my capacity as an Arab who belongs neither to Libya nor to Tunisia but to this people and this homeland. For the first time, the Arab citizens in Tunisia heard the names of heros and martyrs; they were surprised when they heard this. The same thing happened in Libya after the revolution, since Libyan history had been suppressed and falsified. Everything used to be attributed to Al-Sunusi, yet it was the Arab people in Libya who had given columns of martyrs during the battles they had fought for a quarter of a century against the detested Italian colonialism.

The brother leader affirmed that commemorative monuments were built to mark the patriotic battles all over Libya. The Arab people in Libya discovered that they had martyrs and sacrifices which had been usurped by Al-Sunusi. The brother leader said: I would like monuments to be erected to commemorate all the battles fought by the Arab people in Tunisia, especially now that research has been begun for books on battles and martyrs and on the martyr and hero Sa'd al-Bannani, who led thousands of mujahidin Arabs in Tunisia against colonialism and triumphed over it, inflicting losses on it, although he was executed in a horrible manner in front of people in Kairouan.

The brother leader explained that Tunisia's glorious past is part of the Arab nation. Our aspirations and hopes are the same, and our enemy is the same. He said that there used to be the misrepresentation that Libya's enemy was Tunisia's friend. This is deception. We cannot be taken in by such deception. Libya's friend is Tunisia's friend, and Tunisia's enemy is Libya's enemy. He added: I am very happy for the liberation of the Arab masses in Tunisia on 7 November, which removed the nightmare and dispelled fear. I am also happy for the unionist atmosphere which is proceeding along the right path.

The brother leader affirmed that in the talks with his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, they were preoccupied with Arab unity. Since the Great al-Fatih Revolution 20 years ago, we have been fighting for the wind of unity to blow from the Ocean to the Gulf and for Arab unity to be realized. We have carried out important experiments, which have not been unsuccessful as the absurd people say. We actually created a unionist credit balance and paved the road to unity; we gave useful lessons on how to successfully build unity after those experiments, which brought the day of unity nearer.

The brother leader affirmed that history, the challenges facing us, the great transformations in the world, and the economic and political groupings have taught us that there is no future for the Arab nation without unity and that there no room for dwarf statelets after today. He said even Europe, which is comprised of different nations, will set up a unified political grouping and will become a unified state in 1992.

The brother leader also affirmed that Arab youth is the generation which is angry about regionalism and division, underdevelopment and reactionism, and imperialism and Zionism. He noted that this generation, which he has named the angry generation, is not interested in fairy tales and popular stories. The brother leader called on youth in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and the whole Arab nation to form a single, cohesive jamahiri organization integrated like a single federation of students, workers, or peasants. He also called on Arab youth to ignore the obstacles which exist in a regionalist world and to remove the borders and divisions.

The brother leader said: I want this Arab generation to fully disregard all the legacies which have been inherited from colonialism, reactionism, and regionalism. They should not recognize any borders or restrictions, and they should avoid any attempts to frustrate the youth movement, like the yellow books which have been written by the reactionaries and exploiters. He stressed that the basic task of the Arab nation and this generation is to remove the Zionist enemy and imperialism and to eradicate underdevelopment. They should cultivate the land, conquer the desert, and teach medicine, not search for yellow books or engage in razing tombstones, breaking loose the rosaries, or removing decorations from mosques.

The brother leader explained that the veil actually is not what they talk about in yellow books, but it is a moral thing. It lies in strength, invincibility, science, and technology and not in wearing the veil as the reactionaries believe. He said: We live in the age of technology and the space age—the Star Wars age, not the age of the veil and the yellow books. The brother leader said that Libya's fortune is in its land, which is rich with a lake of oil and gas and a lake of water. It used to be regarded as a barren desert without resources like the rest of the Arab homeland. We want to make this nation self-reliant so it should search for and exploit its own resources.

The brother leader added: Following the revolution, we searched for these resources and with a revolutionary will discovered a lake covering thousands of cubic kilometers under the sands and the desert. This water will be sufficient for 400 years of exploitation through the planning of the great man-made river. This lake might even last a lot longer than we think. He explained that this source comes from a single basin and that there are other lakes. We hope to extend the great man-made river to reach southern Tunisia, thus Libya and Tunisia would be linked by the great man-made river. This river is considered one of the new wonders of the world, as it is thought to be 7,000 km long. The sand being dug out to make room for the giant pipes 4 meters in diameter could build 10 pyramids like the Great Pyramid and the metal wire used to manufacture the pipes would go around the earth 250 times, he said. The factories which make these pipes are in Libya.

The brother leader said: We hope that the conditions in Egypt will be different from what they are now, so that we can link the source of the great man-made river with the Nasser Lake, link the town of Al-Kufrah with the Nasser Lake, and link one of the Nile's canals in northern Egypt with the town of Tubruq and with a branch of the great man-made river. Thus Egypt and Libya can unite, and the expansive agricultural lands between them may be exploited. This can begin to be implemented now, regardless of the political issues and the politicians who may never meet.

The brother leader explained that there are technicians, companies, and workers, who can meet and begin this great work, which is for the future generations. He stressed that the work is not only for the Libyans but for all the sons of the Arab nation. The brother leader announced: My brother Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and I have decided to study the results of the work of the unionist Maghreb committees and to propose a program which can be signed at the summit. That way we can begin implementing what the committees have worked out. We will present this program to the rest of the Arab Maghreb countries, so that they can add to or approve it.

The brother leader affirmed that this unionist and integrationist action must not benefit a limited class at the expense of the poor and workers, but this unity and economic integration should benefit the poor and the workers so that they can safeguard it and so that there will be no exploitation. He said: In Libya we have no exploitation. We do not have a Libyan who works as a hired hand for another Libyan. We prevent the hiring of man. Man has the right to his work; he is not like a machine that can be hired out.

The brother leader affirmed: We reject and resist strongly the Arab countries gathering at the Francophone summit. We regard it as a French colonialist hegemony over Africa and the Arab countries which have been outside this hegemony. He affirmed that France gathers the Francophone African countries or its colonies in Africa to show off in front of the United States and the Soviet Union as an empire with colonies. He said that to be under the banner of this empire is a dishonor, and it is rejected.

The brother leader explained that the U.S. 6th Fleet's continuing visit to Arab ports in the Arab Maghreb will threaten and harm unity, because the U.S. 6th Fleet is a Zionist and an American fleet according to the strategic U.S.-Zionist agreement. It is designed to protect the Zionists and to carry the Zionist planes which attacked Tunisia. This fleet also helped to assassinate Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] by means of espionage. Hosting this fleet is hosting the Israelis in our homes. Consequently, one must define one's attitudes toward enemies and friends.

The brother leader said: I was happy to read this phrase: The meeting between the 7 of November and the Great al-Fatih is the work for prosperity and strength. This phrase is the backbone of unity. Unity means prosperity for the Arab citizen and strength for the homeland. If we followed a policy that harmed prosperity or strength, then there would be no meaning for our existence under unity.

The brother leader also told the Safaqis radio in fraternal Tunisia: I ask the Arab countries not to abort the Palestinian Arab uprising and not to exploit this revolution or the martyrs in favor of surrender and the humiliating settlement.

I was pained when I heard that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: I recognize a Jewish and Arab state, but it later transpired that he did not and will not recognize it.

The brother leader added that Abu 'Ammar's recognition of it on the first anniversary of the uprising was like taking the stones from our hands, whereas on this 1st anniversary, the Palestinians should have been given more sacrifices, struggle, and support. Libya, as a pan-Arab and unionist revolution despite the Arab reality, generally shoulders its responsibilities to the Arab nation and the Palestinian Arab people. It will fight until the end to safeguard the uprising between the river and the sea until it reaches Haifa and Yafo harbors and proves that Palestine lies between the river and the sea and not just the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At the end of his statement, the brother leader called on the Palestinian Arab people not to despair and to adhere to the revolution until liberation and final victory.

'Good Signs' Noted in Reconciliation With Egypt

JN1312094788 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Dec 88 pp 3, 20

[Text] Cairo, (AL-ITTIHAD)—Informed Arab sources in Cairo stressed to AL-ITTIHAD yesterday that the recent summit talks in Algiers by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Libyan leaders Mu'ammar

al-Qadhdhafi, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat touched on the current mediation efforts to improve Egyptian-Libyan relations. The sources said that Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and 'Arafat expressed a true desire that progress will be made in the current Palestinian mediation efforts. They added that both asked Al-Qadhdhafi to comply with these efforts without preconditions.

The sources added that during the meeting, 'Arafat revealed the results of the Palestinian mediation and the Egyptian responses to these efforts. They said the Tunisian president considered these responses good signs toward the completion of Egyptian-Libyan reconciliation. They indicated that during his talks with Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat stressed the importance of this reconciliation in serving the Palestine question and the current Arab efforts to regain the Arab rights.

The sources added that the three leaders agreed to resume contacts and complete mediation within the next few days, particularly after the conclusion of preparations for a Arab diplomatic move in Geneva when they will have time to clear the atmosphere among all the Arab states.

For his part, Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the main purpose of reconciliation with any Arab party is to serve the Arab efforts being exerted to regain Arab rights.

It will be recalled that Egypt had earlier informed the Palestinian leadership in recent contacts of its readiness to be reconciled with Al-Qadhdhafi without preconditions provided that he respected Egypt's domestic and foreign policy and avoided any acts against Egypt's security.

Sudan

Ministry Denies Charges of Attack on Chad

EA1212111688 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12th December—The Foreign Ministry yesterday refuted Chad's allegation that Sudan has allowed pro-Libyan Islamic legion troops to attack Chad from within the Sudanese territories.

A statement issued by the ministry yesterday said the Sudan was still abiding by the provisions of the recent agreement signed between the two countries.

The agreement stipulates that the two countries would not allow their territories to be used as a springboard for aggression against the other. The Foreign Ministry statement has asserted that Sudan "will never allow its territories to be used as a springboard against Chad".

We have informed the Chadian Government of the infiltration of these forces into its territories without the knowledge of the Sudanese Government, the Foreign Ministry statement said.

It indicated that the Sudanese Armed Forces have engaged with these troops and as a consequence lost five of its soldiers. The statement said Sudan has "noted with regret the Chadian Government habit of labelling the Sudan in any military confrontation it (Chad) may have with any party", while Sudan continues to affirm "it is not a party to such conflicts". Such attitude and conduct could complicate the good relations between the two countries, the statement warned.

It is understood that Chad's Foreign Ministry last Friday issued a press statement accusing the Sudan of harboring a hostile attitude against Chad by allowing a pro-Libyan Islamic Legion force to infiltrate to Chad from inside Sudanese territories.

Defense Minister on Ending 'Foreign Infiltration'

JN1212153788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (INA)—Sudanese Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil has said the Sudanese Armed Forces will take strict measures through isolating the northern area of the Darfur Region in western Sudan to end foreign infiltration into that area.

In a press statement to an INA correspondent today, the Sudanese minister added that more Sudanese forces with special equipment will take up positions there and will firmly and strongly deter any foreign forces. The Darfur Region, whose northern part borders on both Libya and Chad, last week witnessed fierce battles between the Sudanese forces and groups opposed to the Chadian Government that had infiltrated into Sudanese territory.

Gen 'Abd al-Majid Khalil denied his country has any connection with the attacks launched on Chad from that area. He said his country is working to entrench security and stability in Chad, which is certainly a pillar of security and stability for Sudan. In this regard, he greeted the national reconciliation agreement recently signed in Baghdad between the Chadian Government and the Chadian National Front.

He emphasized that Sudan's support for this agreement is principled, especially since it was signed under the patronage of Iraq, which always calls for peace. Pointing to the front's forces, known as the Ibn 'Umar forces, he said Sudan has decided they should return to Chad with all their weapons, hardware, and equipment.

Regarding the peace agreement on ending the fighting in southern Sudan, the Sudanese defense minister stressed the Sudanese Armed Forces' interest in entrenching peace and stability in the south for the sake of Sudan and its people. He revealed a study, which he described as integrated, prepared by a higher military committee he chaired to establish a cease-fire in the south and lift the state of emergency currently in force in Sudan. He said this study has been approved by the government.

Concerning his and Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih's departure for Addis Ababa today, Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil told the INA correspondent that it has been postponed for the time being at the request of the Ethiopian side, but he gave no further details.

The [Sudanese] defense and foreign ministers were scheduled to depart for the Ethiopian capital this morning to meet with the John Garang movement's representatives to reach final agreement on a formula to participate in the meetings of the technical and preparatory committees of the constitutional conference, which will be held on 31 December.

Military Spokesman on Ability To Defeat Garang

EA0912233488 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The Armed Forces official spokesman has made the following comment about a report attributed to Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad carried by the newspaper ALWAN.

In its issue of 1 December 1988 ALWAN reported the following: Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], had said that the Sudanese Armed Forces will never defeat Garang's movement, which uses guerrilla warfare tactics. The paper said that Mr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad had been talking to the DUP lawyers symposium at the Lawyers Union house.

Since Mr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad has not yet denied the report, the General Command of the Armed Forces would like to stress the following: If Mr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad has been correctly quoted in the issue of ALWAN referred to above, the Armed Forces would like to dispute the accuracy of the remarks attributed to him on both moral and factual grounds. The rebel movement operating in southern Sudan can be defeated and turned into ineffective armed gangs if the People's Armed Forces are given the military equipment they need.

As far as the moral aspect is concerned, it is difficult to understand the purpose and target of such talk when viewed in the context of the current peace initiative, particularly when the rebel movement is preparing to join the negotiations and is hoping to do so in the best possible military situation.

The People's Armed Forces were surprised by the remarks attributed to Mr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad because they came at a time when the Armed Forces were anticipating more material and moral support from everybody. Such support would help the Armed Forces achieve greater control over the situation in the south and would have a positive material and morale-boosting effect on their achievements.

Finally, the General Command would like to stress that nothing will ever affect the unlimited sacrifice they are willing to make, prevent them from carrying out their duty in the best possible manner, or undermine their determination to safeguard the country's unity and stand as a strong deterrent to anyone attacking the integral nature of the Sudanese nation.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Ministerial Council Prepares for 9th Summit

Ministers Begin Talks 11 Dec

JN1112081688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC Ministerial Council meetings began here a short while ago under the chairmanship of Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal.

During its 2-day meetings, the Ministerial Council will draw up the agenda for the ninth GCC summit which, when finalized, will consist of 30 topics. The agenda will include discussion of several important issues, the most important of which are efforts to bring about a durable peace between Iraq and Iran through implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, developments of the Palestine question, means to convene an international Mideast peace conference, and the situation in Lebanon.

The agenda will also include discussion of the GCC's march during the forthcoming phase in light of the peace to be enjoyed by the Arabian Gulf region, and especially issues supporting cooperation among the GCC member states in the economic, security, and defense fields.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah delivered the inaugural speech and said that this meeting acquires many noble meanings and seeks to achieve well-meaning objectives—objectives which preoccupy the minds of the GCC leaders. He added that this meeting bodes well for realizing the ambitions and aspirations to support the GCC march.

The Bahraini minister affirmed that the GCC has taken steps which might appear modest. However, he added, these steps are giant if considered against the background of what is taking place around us. He said: "Perhaps, the secret of the strength of these steps is that they continuously meet the citizen's aspirations within the framework of priorities we seek to achieve and also within the context of ambitions whose requirements we seek to provide."

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the GCC came into being to express a sweeping popular desire for an entity that would enhance the region economically, socially, and security-wise. He added that the GCC march was bolstered by a political will—the result of the leaders' determination to make the march succeed.

The Bahraini foreign minister also spoke on the ninth GCC summit's agenda. He affirmed the importance of this summit and said that this summit's agenda includes important topics, foremost among which is the development of the GCC member states' joint resources—the main responsibility which will continue to be shouldered by the GCC now and in the future.

The minister said that we bear in mind the fact that our GCC exists in spirit before existing in letter and added that its spirit goes beyond its letter. He referred to the good work being done by the GCC member states to entrench security in the Gulf region after peace prospects have been enhanced by the end of the Iraq-Iran war. He voiced the GCC's hope that the Iraq-Iran negotiations will be crowned with success.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said that the Palestinian people's struggle and the Lebanese crisis will be topics on the ninth summit's agenda. He affirmed that the GCC member states will continue to develop the existing coordination among GCC member states to serve the common interests and contribute effectively to supporting the causes of the Arab nation and the Islamic community.

Following is the text of the speech delivered by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O brothers, royal highness, and highnesses:

In the name of God, I declare the opening of the works of the 29th preparatory session of the GCC Ministerial Council preceding the meetings of the ninth session of the GCC Supreme Council. You are welcome as brothers on the course of communication whose links will not be severed. Bahrain is pleased, happy, and jubilant with your meeting, the meeting of fraternity, affection, and construction.

This meeting—taking place on Bahraini territory today—is reminiscent of many noble meanings and objectives which preoccupy the minds of our leaders. This meeting bodes well for the ambitions and aspirations regarding the enhancement of our cooperative march which has taken steps that might look modest to us. As a matter of fact, these steps are giant if seen against the background of events around us.

Perhaps the secret of their strength lies in the fact that these steps continuously respond to the citizen's aspirations within the framework of the priorities we seek to achieve and also within the context of the ambitions whose requirements we seek to provide. In all this, we depend on the characteristics of our GCC—the characteristics derived from its glorious history and its bright present.

The GCC is a manifestation of a sweeping popular desire for an entity that would enhance the region economically, socially, and in terms of security. Throughout its march, the GCC has enjoyed the availability of a political will which is the offspring of the leaders' determination to make the march succeed, as this will has nursed and patronized the GCC. Thus, the GCC has become what they willed—an edifice in which cultivation, construction, and development have continued. And all moral and material forms of building resources are manifest in this entity.

This orientation is confirmed and bolstered by the important topics on the ninth summit's agenda, foremost among which are developing the joint resources of the GCC member states—the main responsibility which will continue to be shouldered by the GCC now and in the future, bearing in mind the fact that our GCC is a spirit before being a letter and its spirit goes beyond its letter, thus forming a protective fence to block out the maze of interpretations and measures which could have ruined its characteristic traits. This would also serve as a basic guarantee for steadfastness in the face of accelerating civilizational challenges and for realizing our objectives displaying seriousness, confidence, and a clear vision of the future, God willing.

If we are to move to the current developments pertaining to our region and our Arab world, we would like to affirm the importance of the good work of the GCC member states to contribute to the efforts to entrench security in the Gulf region as peace prospects have been bolstered by the end of the Iraq-Iran war. We hope that the Iraq-Iran negotiations will be crowned with success and that the results of these negotiations will enhance our efforts which have been seeking to secure the stability of the region, thus providing its peoples with security, progress, and prosperity.

Then comes the struggle being waged by the Palestinian people against the hateful Zionist occupation in the occupied territories to delineate the priorities of our Arab orientation regarding supporting this heroic struggle and its legitimate demands placing before our eyes first and foremost the demands of this fraternal people. The proclamation of the independent Palestinian state is a mere link in this just struggle which we bless and support with all of our resolve and strength.

And then there is the Lebanese crisis. Allow me to appeal to our brothers in Lebanon to unify their ranks for the sake of consecrating the national legitimacy and electing a president in order to safeguard the unity of Lebanon. We hope that the forthcoming Arab League meeting to be held a few days from now will reach speedy solutions that reiterate the sovereignty and independence of this Arab state, as we all appreciate this state's great contributions to its nation's causes and exert all efforts to guarantee its security and stability.

Regarding the international arena, the world is currently witnessing winds of change that are rocking all rules which have been acted upon during the last half of this century. We are currently being faced with realities that are greatly different from what they used to be when previous summits were held. This pertains to regional, Arab, and international realities that demand that we continue our efforts to develop the existing coordination among us in order for us to be able to deal with the world on issues pertaining to our common interests and to allow for the direction of our energies and resources toward the realization of further progress. This is also important as it will enable us to make an effective contribution toward vindicating our Arab nation's causes and the pride of our Islamic community and also toward enhancing the security and peace of mankind.

Concluding my speech, I strongly and sincerely hope that our session will produce important and effective elements to help realize our aspirations on the course of serious endeavors, demonstrating persistence and, God willing, realizing all aspirations emanating from the human values and principles which constitute our heritage, and allowing for the firmness of the ties binding us to take shape. I am here referring to our history, sincerity, and selflessness—our assets and the food of our journey.

On this occasion, I am dutybound to pay tribute to the successful efforts of my brother His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, during his chairmanship of the previous session. His sincere orientations and distinguished activities played an effective role in scoring the many accomplishments which the GCC has managed to make. Hence, we voice our thanks, admiration, and appreciation.

Brothers, while on the threshold of convening the ninth GCC summit which we hope to see manifest wisdom, well-being, and giving like the previous summits, it pleases me to voice my thanks to the GCC General Secretariat for its efforts to hold this summit, as it attended and supervised the convening of approximately 40 meetings held by ministerial and specialized technical committees. In particular, I voice thanks to His Excellency GCC Secretary General Ya'qub Bisharah and his colleagues who work with him.

Once again, I welcome you and sincerely hope, entreating the Amighty God, that He will help us shoulder the responsibility entrusted to us by their majesties and highnesses—the responsibility which you value and are able to shoulder, God willing.

First Working Session Ends

JN1112110288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC Ministerial Council concluded its first working session here a short while ago under the chairmanship of the Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, chairman of the current session of the Council.

WAKH learned that during the meeting they heard a report by the former GCC session's chairman, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, on the progress of the GCC in the past period. They also heard a report by the GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah on the progress of the ministerial committees and what they had achieved between the eighth and present GCC sessions.

The foreign ministers also reviewed political events, including the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region.

The Ministerial Council will hold its second working session at 0530 this evening Bahrain time.

Bahraini Amir Makes Address

JN1112130488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, received in Manama at noon today the GCC foreign and finance ministers and the GCC secretary general and his assistants for economic and political affairs in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, on the occasion of the convening of the GCC Ministerial Council and the meeting of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee in Bahrain.

His Highness the Bahraini amir affirmed the importance attached to the results that will be reached by the ninth GCC summit—to be hosted by Bahrain on 19 December—to achieve further progress, development, and prosperity for the peoples of the GCC member states.

His highness the amir stressed the importance of preparing a good agenda for the ninth GCC summit and paid tribute to the great efforts of the GCC foreign and finance ministers.

The amir asserted that the summit of giving—to be held in Bahrain—will be a new historic juncture in the region. This juncture will be represented by positive harbingers regarding the termination of the Iraq-Iran war and the restoration of peace to the Gulf region, not to mention the good effects of the Arab moves to bring about further cooperation and unify Arab stands.

His highness the amir voiced hope that these meetings will result in the adoption of positive and constructive resolutions and recommendations that would serve the GCC march in various spheres.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force; and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister.

Council Holds Third Session

JN1212160288 Manama WAKH in English 1514 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, Dec 12 (GNA)—The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states resumed its 29th session here this morning under the chairmanship of Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Informed sources told GULF NEWS AGENCY that the ministers concluded, during their two sessions yesterday, discussion of issues on the agenda and reports of the political, economic, military and security committees.

They added the ministers will review in the third session the final recommendations for the ninth GCC summit in Bahrain on December 19.

Third Session Concludes

JN1212161788 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, Dec 12 (GNA)—The GCC Ministerial Council ended the third session here today under the chairmanship of Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current session Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The foreign ministers reviewed, during the third session, resolutions to be raised to the ninth summit on issues on the agenda.

The fourth session is scheduled to take place this evenibng.

The Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current session and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah will hold a press conference later today on what has been reviewed by the Ministerial Council.

Final Session Begins

JN1212180188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 12 Dec (WAKH)—The GGC Ministerial Council began its fourth and final session in Manama this evening as part of the 29th round of sessions, now meeting under Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current session.

The GCC foreign ministers will finish reviewing their recommendations on the topics on the agenda. These recommendations will be presented to the ninth summit of their majesties and highnesses, the GCC leaders—to begin here on 19 December.

Council Concludes Meetings

JN1212191788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1754 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 12 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC Ministerial Council concluded the meetings of its 29th round here this evening under the chairmanship of Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

During the consultations, which lasted 2 days, the ministers made a number of decisions and passed resolutions on a number of issues and subjects on the agenda in preparation for referring them to their majesties and highnesses' ninth summit—to be held on the 19th of the current month.

The foreign ministers also discussed the political aspects of the current situation in the region in particular and new developments in the Arab arena in general.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, chairman of the current round, and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah will hold a press conference later tonight to discuss the proceedings of the Ministerial Council.

Ministers Depart for UN Talks

JN1312092088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 13 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, left Manama today for Geneva to participate in the UN General Assembly [UNGA] discussion of the Palestine question,—to begin in Geneva today.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to deliver an important speech before UNGA today, during which he will speak about the Palestine question and its developments.

The Kuwaiti and Saudi foreign ministers participated in the GCC Ministerial Council's meetings, which concluded here yesterday.

GCC Finance Committee Ends Meeting in Manama

JN1112113488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC ministerial committee for financial cooperation has concluded its extraordinary session that began here earlier today under the chairmanship of Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national econmy. The committee discussed several subjects concerning the joint economic agreement, its implementation, and the joint plan to protect the industrial products of the GCC states.

After the meeting, Saudi Minister Aba al-Khayl said that two basic issues were discussed. The first issue is the joint plan to protect industrial products of the GCC states where regulations governing these industries were laid down. Ways to deal with products manufactured in the GCC states' free zones and all issues relating to them were also settled. Aba al-Khayl noted that if these products are subject to the standards governing the national producer in terms of ownership and added value, they will be dealt with as national products.

The second issue, the minister added, is related to implementing Article 24 of the joint economic agreement, which gives each of the GCC states the right to request excepting a certain commodity from the rules on duty-free commodities. The minister pointed out that the ministers have decided that the Sultanate of Oman may continue to enjoy such exceptions with regard to three major products—that is, cement, plastic products, and asbestos—for 2 more years provided certain restrictions are applied on possible requests in the future.

Aba al-Khayl said that the financial cooperation committee has also completed its study of the incentives the GCC state offer, variations among such incentives, and means of dealing with them this year.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Previews Upcoming GCC Summit

JN1212204688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 12 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, chairman of the current round of Ministerial Council talks, described the meetings of GCC heads of state—to be held in Bahrain—as a very important event. He indicated that the Ministerial Council has prepared for the summit and made a number of recomendations to be referred to the Bahrain summit.

He also described the foreign ministers' meeting as successful by all standards, having surmounted all obstacles, especially those on economic issues. He indicated that the Ministerial Council reviewed many political, military, security, economic, and social issues.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the current situation in the Arab world in general received the attention it deserves in addition to developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the cease-fire Resolution 598 between Iraq and Iran. He added that the GCC countries participated greatly in implementing this resolution. He expressed hope that the resolution will be applied fully for the good of the two neighboring countries and the world. The Bahraini foreign minister affirmed that the GCC will continue its efforts to apply the resolution. He said that we will exert efforts toward achieving this objective and establishing just peace in the region.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the GCC discussed developments in the Palestine question from all its aspects, including the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. He affirmed that the declaration of the independent state will receive all support and backing from their majesties and highnesses, the heads of the GCC states.

On this subject, he said that in affirmation of that, a number of foreign ministers from the GCC will travel to Geneva tomorrow to attend the General Assembly meetings in which PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will deliver the speech on Palestine. He said that they will work toward supporting the independent Palestinian state to restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Bahraini minister said the foreign ministers discussed the situation in Lebanon. He affirmed that this wound bleeding the Arab body must be healed. He added that the situation in Lebanon will be discussed in the Arab League Council meeting soon. We will work toward

retrieving and strengthening legitimacy in Lebanon and helping the Lebanese people establish their constituional institutions once and for all for the sake of the unity and independence of this country.

The Bahraini foreign minister declared that the ninth summit of the GCC states will focus on the economic situation. He praised the spirit of understanding, response, and determination of the GCC states' officials to entrench the united Gulf market and economic nationalism. He affirmed that they have managed to overcome some obstacles that had been the reason for postponing the implementation of some articles of the economic agreement on exceptions for national products and standardizing customs tariffs.

The Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current GCC round of talks praised the continuous cooperation among the GCC states in the security, military, and defense fields. He described this cooperation as serious and effective. He added that serious, intense work is taking place in all organs of this field.

He referred to the power of the peninsula shield and said that GCC leaders have established the basis on which cooperation will function in this field. We hope the day will come when we can say that there is a comprehensive GCC force.

Asked about signing a collective security agreement among the GCC countries, the Bahraini foreign minister said that the recent meeting of the GCC countries' interior ministers discussed this subject and that the meeting was positive. He also affirmed that signing of this agreement is at its last stages. He said that the economic agreement among the GCC countries is being implemented in stages. He explained that at the end of each stage, efforts will be made to take some economic steps after which other issues will be considered.

The Bahraini minister said: We hope we will talk next year about the establishment of a Gulf common market. This is very important and we want to go ahead with it.

The Bahraini foreign minister also announced that the ninth summit will closely study all aspects of the GCC countries' oil policy. He said: Reports on this issue have been prepared for submission to the summit. The oil ministers will participate in this summit.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah affirmed that the GCC countries are interested in social issues and other issues, adding that anything of interest to the citizens in the GCC countries will be important to us.

The Bahraini minister added that other subjects related to education; health; reciprocal treatment regarding stocks, taxes, and industrial projects; protecting national industry; and unifying customs tariffs will be also submitted to the summit.

Asked about extending the term of GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the Bahraini foreign minister said that neither he nor the secretary general can answer that question, pointing out that this issue will be determined by their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC countries. He said: The ninth summit meeting of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC will for the first time convene while peace prevails over the Gulf. He described this summit as historic because it convenes under new circumstances. He added: This will make us intensify our efforts to entrench real peace.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the next stage will be one of peace in the region and the forthcoming summit will define a strategy for tackling this new stage.

He emphasized the importance that the GCC countries pin on rendering the direct Iraq-Iran negotiations a success. He said: We will spare no effort to facilitate the progress of these negotiations between the two countries.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the presence of the GCC foreign ministers in Geneva tomorrow will permit them to contact UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss this issue with him.

On Iran's relations with the GCC, the Bahraini foreign minister said that the GCC countries want to have the best of relations with Iran, and the GCC has its own concept of these relations, consisting of ending the tension in the region, establishing peace, and building confidence among all parties.

The Bahraini forign minister said: We are ready to hold a dialogue with Iran and to contact it. He said: We did so in the past in order to establish relations of goodneighborliness.

The Bahraini minister said: Cooperation is needed from both Iran and the Arab side. He said he hopes that joint understanding will be the basis of these relations.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah described the recent meeting between the Afghan mujahidin delegation and the Soviet delegation in Al-Ta'if as positive and a step forward.

The Bahraini minister said that the GCC countries support the dialogue between the concerned parties—that is, between the Afghan mujahdin and the Soviet Union. He said he believes that matters are proceeding among the Afghan mujahidin, the Soviet Union, and the Afghan Government toward a peaceful solution.

The Bahraini foreign minister said that the Arab group in the United Nations will submit to the UN session on the Palestinian cause a draft resolution to recognize the PLO as an observer member in the international organization.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Departs for Geneva

LD1312092288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, Dec 13 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shrykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah left here Tuesday heading for Geneva to take part in today's deliberations of the U.N. General Assembly on the Palestinian cause.

Shaykh Sabah is accompanied on the same plane by Saudi and Bahraini Foreign Ministers Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Shakh Muhammed ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Rashid 'Abdallah.

The Gulf Cooperation Council minsiters had concluded here last night their meetings, held in preparation for the GCC summit scheduled to be held in the Bahraini capital on December 19.

Oman

Information Minister Departs for Geneva

JN1212145788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1342 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Muscat, 12 Dec (WAKH)—Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas left Muscat today for Geneva to represent the Sultanate of Oman in the UN General Assembly meetings during its discussion of the Palestine question and to listen to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech to be delivered during these meetings.

Al-Rawwas made a statement to QNA and journalists in which he expressed his hopes that world public opinion will give a new push to the new Palestinian line to establish a just, permanent, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East cause and entrench the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to live in freedom, peace, and total independence like other nations of the world.

The Omani minister said that the participation of the Arab nations on this level in the Geneva meetings indicates clear Arab solidarity before world public opinion and attempts to convince it of the justice of the Arab cause.

On the significance of the visit of the personal representative of Yasir 'Arafat to the Sultanate of Oman in light of the relations between the Sultanate and the PLO, Al-Rawwas affirmed the concern of the Omani Government in supporting the Palestine question, taking a clear and realistic stand, and fully and totally supporting the struggling Palestinian Arab people, who want to live a dignified and independent life among their own people and family.

He said that the exchange of messages between the Arab brothers is a natural result of the aim to achieve Arab solidarity and coordinate international stands that serve our joint causes.

Qatar

State Minister Leaves for Geneva UN Debate

JN1312095188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Doha, 13 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, left for Geneva today heading his country's delegation to the UN General Assembly debate on the Palestine question due to begin at the European headquarters in Geneva later today.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly in Geneva today, during which he will discuss the Palestine question.

United Arab Emirates

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Leaves After Short Visit

JN1212142888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Abu Dhabi this evening after a short visit to the UAE.

During the visit, the Palestinian leader held talks with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, on the latest developments in the Palestine question.

State Minister Leaves for Geneva Meetings

JN1312092488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 13 Dec (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, left Manama today for Geneva to attend the UN General Assembly discussion of the Palestine question, which will begin in Geneva today.

Earlier, Rashid 'Abdallah participated in the GCC Ministerial Council's meetings, which concluded here yesterday.

Saddam Husayn Receives PLO's 'Arafat 12 Dec

JN1212185788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question prior to the UN General Assembly's debate on Palestine, which will begin in Geneva tomorrow. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Geneva UN Debate

JN1212193088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1814 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Geneva this evening to lead Iraq's delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings to begin work at the UN's European headquarters tomorrow to discuss the Palestine question. Tariq 'Aziz is expected to deliver Iraq's speech tomorrow.

Ramadan Makes Statement, Leaves for UAE

JN1012143588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, left Baghdad for Abu Dhabi today. In a statement to INA, Ramadan said he was carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, on cooperation between the two fraternal countries and how to promote it in all areas in favor of their joint interests and the Arab nation's goals.

Ramadan also said that he will discuss with the Arab brothers developments in the Arab arena within the framework of serious consultations and action to bolster bilateral relations and strengthen Arab solidarity to confront the challenges threatening the Arab nation.

The president's personal envoy added that he will acquaint His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan with the latest developments in negotiations between Iraq and Iran and the obstacles being created by the Iranian side in violation of all international charters and laws. We will also discuss, he said, the current Arab situation at this critical stage as well as the importance of effective and serious joint Arab action.

Taha Yasin Ramadan was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, member of the Iraqi RCC; a number of ministers; and the UAE ambassador in Baghdad.

INA: Iranian Gunboats Search UK Tanker 12 Dec

JN1212192488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1812 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] London, 12 Dec (INA)--The British tanker "Trident" [name as received] was searched by Iranian gunboats in the Arabian Gulf today, the first such incident since Iraqi-Iranian cease-fire was put into effect last August.

In a cable to the INA office in London today, Britain's Lloyds Insurance Company said the 133,035-ton British tanker was stopped by Khomeyni Guards, who boarded it. They searched the tanker for 45 minutes before allowing it to resume sailing.

INA Commentator Denies Reconciliation With Syria

JN1312080188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—The INA Arab affairs commentator has described an analysis by the chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, published yesterday, on the possibilities of achieving Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation, as a figment of his imagination. The commentator said that what was suggested by the analysis on the possibility of a meeting between Syria and Iraq is baseless.

The commentator stressed that there will be no meeting with those whose hands are stained with the blood of other Arabs, with those who fragment Arab unity, violate its will, and implement all that serves the enemies of Arabs. The commentator said that nothing has changed in the Syrian regime's stand to validate the AL-SIYASAH analysis.

The INA commentator called on the paper to be careful not to publish such baseless analyses and reports in the future.

Paper on Syria's 'Connivance' in Lebanon Attack

JN1112123088 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 11, INA—"Damascus rulers are determined to reject any Arab role or endeavour helping to solve the Lebanese problem and salvage the Arab Lebanese people from its distress," an Iraqi paper said.

AL-THAWRAH daily said, in a commentary published here today that landing operations perpetrated by the Zionist enemy in south and south-east Beirut, the day before yesterday, exposed more pieces of evidence and tangible events proving the Syrian regime's connivance with the Zionist enemy and its flagrant betrayal of higher pan-Arab interests.

AL-THAWRAH stressed that the Syrian regime opened the door to the Zionist enemy, helping it to carry out its assault on Palestinian sites in Lebanon.

Coordination between this regime and the Zionist entity "is in full swing to carry out their joint scheme of partitioning and fragmenting Lebanon." AL-THAWRAH reiterated.

Higgins Said Sentenced for 'Spying for Israel'
TA1212201588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] In Beirut, the kidnappers of U.S. Colonel William Higgins announced they have sentenced him to death for spying for Israel. The kidnappers, members of the Oppressed of the World organization, say in their statement to the Beirut newspaper AL-NAHAR that they will not retract their decision. A photograph of the 43-year old Higgins was attached to the statement. Higgins was kidnapped in Tyre some 10 months ago while serving on the UN observers force.

'Significant Progress' in Likud-Alignment Talks
TA1212150188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Progress has been made in the talks between the Likud and the Alignment on establishing a broad-based government. This has transpired following the meeting between the Likud and Alignment negotiation teams lasting for 6 and ½ hours. Minister Qatzav told our correspondent after the meeting that he assesses that within 1-2 days everything will be settled. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

[Begin recording] [Deqel] The meeting between the Likud and Alignment negotiation teams lasted for 6 and ½ hours today. The location of the meeting—Minister Moshe Shahal's home in Jerusalem—was kept secret. Even the aides of the six negotiators did not know the location of the meeting. Ministers Bar-Lev, Arens, Qatzav, and Knesset Members [MK's] Meridor and Edri were greatly surprised to meet us at the entrance of the building. Bar-Lev and Edri refused to answer our questions. Minister Arens told us not to bother. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Qatzav was somewhat more generous. From what he said one can gather that significant progress has been made in the negotiations:

[Qatzav] Progress has been made, although some questions remain open. All in all we are holding intensive negotiations; we want to conclude them as soon as possible. I hope that within 1-2 days we will finish the negotiations.

[Deqel] This is what Minister Qatzav said upon leaving Shahal's home. This evening the Alignment ministers will meet for a briefing on the negotiations. After they meet we will be able to say whether we are on the verge of the second national unity government.[end recording]

Shamir, Arens, Peres, Rabin To Run New Government
TA1212111088 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 12 Dec 88 p 2

["Exclusive" report by Diane Shalem]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Yitzaq Shamir, Moshe Arens, Shim'on Peres and Yitzaq Rabin will run the new government, it was decided in a secret meeting between the four Likud and Labor leaders two weeks ago.

They also met yesterday to set the guidelines for a coalition agreement between the two major parties. According to the earlier understanding, reached days before the "crucial" Labor Party Central Committee vote last Thursday, an inner cabinet consisting of the four leaders will be at the helm of the broad coalition.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 13 December adds: "They also agreed on the formation of a ministerial committee, headed by Gad Ya'aqobi, to examine means and options for changing the electoral system."]

Under the terms of the agreement, Shamir will continue as prime minister for four years without any rotation. All the crucial political and economic decisions will be made by the tetrad heads. The tetrad, a new concept in Israeli politics, has been formed in order to give the leaders more control over their respective parties and more maneuverability for bold new initiatives.

Rabin will continue as minister of defense, while Peres, though he wants to continue at the Foreign Ministry, is more likely to take the Treasury portfolio, and will remain deputy prime minister. Arens will become foreign minister.

It is expected that two of the four religious parties—SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the National Religious Party—will join the coalition, and will be given "observer status" in the new inner cabinet. [passage omitted]

Likud, Alignment Reportedly Agree on Guidelines
TA1212164188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The Alignment-Likud meeting was conducted under a veil of secrecy. The parties' representatives to the clandestine negotiations for a broad-based government were tonight willing to say only that progress had been made.

Our correspondent Yaron Deqel has, and is willing to reveal, more details of today's meeting:

The new government's guidelines will be identical to those of the outgoing government. This is one of the central clauses of the agreement which the Likud and the Alignment are now formulating. It also appears that the Likud is willing to accept the principle of an equal number of ministers for each party. Each of the two parties is to have 10 ministers.

One of the main obstacles is whether Shim'on Peres is to receive the foreign or the finance portfolio. A decision on his part to accept the finance ministry will pave the way for a conclusion of the negotiations. This afternoon both teams briefed their party leaders on today's talks. The Alignment ministers meeting scheduled for tonight was

canceled. It is apparently too soon to brief them on the negotiation results. The Likud and Alignment negotiating teams will meet again tomorrow.

Tehiya Ratifies Agreement With Likud

TA1312055988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The Tehiya Party Central Committee has ratified its agreement with the Likud. The committee called on party leaders to honor the accord, both in a broad or a narrow coalition. It also called on the Likud to reject outright Labor demands to ban the Zionist parties from a broadly-based government. Tehiya wants the National Religious Party, Tzomet, and Moledet to form a united front to pressure the Likud into keeping its agreement with them.

SHAS, Degel Hatora To Oppose 'Who Is a Jew'

TA1212170088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The 'Who Is a Jew' amendment no longer has a guaranteed majority in the Knesset. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh has learned that the Degel Hatora and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] factions are about to announce that they will vote against the amendment. Voting like this will also allow Likud Knesset members to abstain from supporting the amendment.

Ultraorthodox factions close to Rabbi Schach believe that the amendment is liable to cause more damage than good. To assist the the HABAD hasidim in their struggle, however, they were recently inclined to support the amendment. Now, after Degel Hatora's attempts to receive the ultraorthodox education directorship were foiled by Agudat Yisra'el, these factions see themselves free of any obligation to help Agudat Yisra'el.

'Surprise and Sorrow' Expressed at Shultz Remarks

TA1112125088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev, Larry Derfner, and David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Officials in Jerusalem last night privately expressed surprise and sorrow at U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's criticism of the IDF raid in Lebanon.

Shultz said in Brussels on Friday that he was surprised to learn about the operation to rescue paratroopers in Lebanon. "I had thought by this time the Israelis would have learned their lesson about putting troops well inside Lebanon. It didn't work before," he told a news conference at the end of a NATO meeting.

The Israeli officials noted that Shultz's reaction may have been influenced by the reports of the large-scale operation launched after the raid to evacuate the four stranded IDF soldiers. The sources noted that as a matter of policy, Israel does not inform the U.S. of its intention to launch limited-scale military operations as this would force the Americans to warn against them and foreknowledge would embarrass the U.S.

Prime Minister Shamir last night declined to respond to Shultz's criticism. Noting that Shultz acknowledged that he did not know all the details of the attack, Shamir said he would only respond after Shultz gave a formal, fully informed appraisal. Shamir was speaking at the opening of the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum at the Eretz Yisra'el Museum. [passage omitted]

Weizman, Navon Had 'Reservations' Over Action

TA1112145188 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Dec 88 p 5

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Several Alignment ministers in the Inner Cabinet had reservations about the IDF action in Lebanon. It has been learned that Ministers Navon and Weizman presented the case against a wide-scale military action near Beirut out of concern over renewed IDF involvement in Lebanon. The same ministers also had reservations about the operational value of the action. In the end, the Inner Cabinet decided in favor of the action by a majority vote.

The top-level senior political-military level last Wednesday approved the IDF action in the Al-Damur area. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, presented the plan of action to the senior ministerial forum. The defense minister told the ministers that the operation was aimed at deterring the terrorist organizations from redeploying and carrying out terrorist activity against Israel. The chief of staff said that such an operation was necessary in order to hit the terrorist organizations' rearguard and training bases. Gen Shomron said it was an essential move to separate the terrorists' headquarters in Lebanon's rear, and to prevent deployment and attacks in the security zone.

Ministers' Reservations on IDF Raid Denied

TA1112192688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem categorically denied the reports that two members of the Cabinet expressed reservations about the raid or its timing. Back to Jack Katzenell:

Political sources in Jerusalem say the Inner Cabinet decision to launch last Thursday's raid was unanimous, and there is no truth in the reports that two Cabinet ministers have voiced reservations about the timing on the anniversary of the outbreak of the uprising in the territories, or just before Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Geneva. [passage omitted]

Lubrani: Syria Knows Intervention Means 'Disaster'
TA1212080688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Report on a telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in southern Lebanon, by 'Amos Har'el; on 12 December—recorded]

[Text] [Har'el] The IDF raid on terrorist headquarters in Lebanon will have a far-reaching impact on the terrorist organizations' activities there. The raid will force them to invest large efforts in defense.

[Lubrani] It is clear that the terrorists will now know that our long arm will reach them wherever they are and will no doubt make it harder for them to prepare the ground for operations against us. That is the first thing. Second, I have no doubt that the operation will force them to invest much greater efforts in defense than they previously needed, which in itself makes it harder for them to get organized.

[Har'el] Lubrani is not surprised by the fact that the Syrian Army did not become involved in the fighting despite the raid's proximity to the Syrian lines. They had no reason to intervene, he said. They knew what the outcome would have been.

[Lubrani] I think the Syrians have no interest in intervening. I think they understand that any interference can only end in disaster for them. The Syrians know that when we have to take action against the organizations operating against us, the Syrian presence or lack of presence is not a factor in our calculations. They know very well that where Israel's security is concerned, we do not keep ourselves from acting according to our interests because of the fact that there are Syrians there.

[Har'el] In reply to a question about the raid's possible influence on the stability of the Lebanese regime, Lubrani said he does not believe it will have any repercussions. He said the stability of the Lebanese regime cannot be any more shaky than it is at present. It is this very instability that allows for the terrorist presence, he believes. We should also not get excited about the Lebanese appeal to the UN Security Council, Lubrani said.

[Lubrani] Each time we operate against the terrorists the Lebanese automatically appeal to the United Nations. This is virtually the only action any Lebanese government can take.

Syrian Proximity 'Important Factor' for Shomron
TA1212123888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by the defense staff]

[Excerpts] Defence Minister Rabin said last night he had personally approved evacuating the main body of the IDF commando force after its assault against a terrorist base in Lebanon on Thursday night. But controversy continued to surround the decision to leave behind four soldiers who had become separated from the main group.

At the weekend, Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron told newsmen both decisions had been his.

The four were rescued almost six hours after their comrades had been withdrawn in a daring mission under covering fire from Cobra helicopter gunships. [passage omitted]

Training Branch head Aluf [Major General] Doron Rubin, the direct commander of the commando operation who monitored the activity, said that the proximity of Syrian troops to the main body of the Israeli commando force had been an important factor in Shomron's decision.

Shomron said also that the assessment that the nearby Syrian forces would not intervene had contributed to the decision to carry out the operation.

"We didn't abandon the soldiers in enemy territory," Rubin said. "We used other means to get them out. The ground force had in fact left, but the IDF was still there. We activated planes and helicopters and spread radio and reconnaisance networks. I have no doubt the army would have invested everything to get the men out of there."

Shomron defended his decision, saying that as chief of general staff he had to consider the dangers of wider military and political "complications."

"It is forbidden to leave soldiers in the field. I think this value is sacred. But from the chief of staff's point of view, the operational implication of this value is different from the point of view of a unit's commander.

"A unit commander knows that he must not leave a soldier behind. He must persevere, and take risks, and not leave one soldier from his unit.

"From the chief of staff's perspective, however, when there is the consideration of the danger to other soldiers, the danger of military and political complications, he can decide, as happened in this case—under no circumstances to leave the soldiers—but to decide to assign their evacuation to another force, in this case the Air Force with others, who can bring them out safer, faster, and with less danger of the above-mentioned complications." [passage omitted]

Rubin acknowledged that the attack had not gone completely according to plan, saying this was normal for operations of this type. Meytal's death, he said, which occurred in the opening stages of the assault, had caused some confusion, which eventually led to a shortened timetable. [passage omitted]

Change Seen in IDF Antiterror Methods

TA1112183888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 88 p 9

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Initiating Operations Again"]

[Text] The raid on the headquarters of the PFLP in Lebanon (Ahmad Jibril's organization) carried out by the IDF on Thursday, is the first of its kind since the Lebanon war. The joint operation, which involved ground forces, naval vessels, fighter planes, and helicopters, probably indicates a change in the General Staff's perception of methods to be applied in the struggle against terror.

On Friday, Chief of General Staff [COS] Dan Shomron stressed the need to diversify operational activities whose targets are hitting terror organization targets. The effectiveness of air raids, Shomron assessed, is limited. The terrorists have learned to live with shelling. They are fortified, and set up to reduce the damage of shelling. "If the IDF chooses to settle for protecting the border, and limits its activity to the security zone," said Shomron, "the price of terror would be too heavy."

The COS' decision to adopt the plan to raid Al-Na'imah indicates the end of the period when two contradictory modes of thought were discussed in the IDF command. One said that in the struggle against terror organizations, the IDF should take the initiative and carry out ground operations against chosen targets in order to damage the operational ability of these organizations. Those siding with the opposing notions claimed that such operations might cause a great number of casualties to the participating forces. This would be even more so if these operations were to be carried out deep in Lebanese terrain. They claimed that it is better to stick with the traditional method of air raids, even if it seems less effective. It seems that Dan Shomron was convinced by the arguments presented by those siding with the former ideas.

The target of this raid indicates a willingness to take a considerable amount of risk, and demonstrates that the IDF does not intend to remain passive in its struggle against terror. Jibril's headquarters are located far from the border, in the area of Al-Damur. The advance of the soldiers to this area, and their later evacuation, entailed precise planning and the use of various means of transportation. In addition, the target is located a very short distance from Syrian Army units.

Less than 5 km stood between Syrian soldiers and the raiding IDF soldiers. The COS took a calculated risk when he approved of an operation to hit a terror organization operating under Syrian auspices. The gamble proved justified, and the Syrians did not move their forces or take up arms against the IDF soldiers or airplanes that circled above the area.

The major goal of the operation was to surprise Jibril's men, hit them, and damage the organization's operational ability for as long a period of time as possible. It seems that as far as this goal is concerned the IDF raid proved to be a success, despite the heavy price: the death of Lieutenant Colonel Amir Meytal, the battalion commander.

The IDF soldiers managed to completely surprise Jibril's fighters. Their movement toward the targets was not discovered until they fired the first shots. Preliminary debriefings indicate that at least 20 of Jibril's men were killed, including Abu-Jamil, a battalion commander. The fighting was carried out at extremely short ranges, and Lt Col Meytal and the three wounded soldiers were hit by the terrorists' gunfire.

The fact that the raid was planned to take place on the 1st anniversary of the outbreak of the uprising cannot be ignored. Despite the denial of the COS, conducting such an unusual operation on this particular day carries a clear message delivered by the IDF to the terror organizations.

The choice of target—Ahmad Jibril's organization—was also not accidental. The organization is counted with the PLO rejectionist front. Jibril opposes any move that seems to turn toward a political method. Jibril did not participate in the PNC meeting in Algiers. Despite the fact that 'Arafat's moves meet mixed responses in Israel, there is no doubt that Jibril is regarded as an uncompromising enemy. "I do not see Jibril tied to the peace process," Shomron said on Friday.

The disruption that occurred when four of the soldiers were cut off the main force with no means of communication forced the COS to make a difficult decision. Dan Shomron, who headed the tactical headquarters during the operation, had to decide whether to evacuate the raiding force before dawn, or continue searches for the four while risking exposing all the others to possible daylight attacks.

It appears that the decision to evacuate the soldiers, and send helicopters for the search and rescue of the four missing soldiers, was right, in light of the circumstances. This decision, however, is somewhat problematic. It involved shattering a main IDF value: soldiers are not to be left behind at an end of an operation. All efforts are to be made to locate the missing prior to returning to base. An intensive search by helicopters was launched after the force was cleared out. It was backed by air force fighter planes and helicopters that prevented the terrorists from approaching the estimated location of the four. The COS assessed that the four were together, were well equipped, and were capable of defending themselves. Indeed, they managed to kill three terrorists before being rescued.

Radio contact with the four was eventually restored. They were rescued 1 and ½ hours later, flown out while holding onto the skids of two Cobra helicopters. The search and rescue of the four, who included an officer, was mostly carried out in broad daylight and under grave risk to the

helicopter crews. The four were landed aboard a Navy vessel on Friday morning, and thus the operation ended. It goes without saying that the separation of the four from the force to which they belonged, and the inability to locate them before the force was evacuated, have to be looked into carefully, and precise conclusions have to be drawn. This is even more so because radio contact was lost and, surprisingly, reestablished several hours later.

Finally, it can be stated that the operation indicates a new direction whose aim is to shake the terrorists' confidence. One result of this policy would be large investments by the terrorists in protecting themselves at the expense of planning and executing terror operations. The fact that IDF soldiers managed to reach Jibril's headquarters deep in Lebanese terrain, while maintaining total surprise, will undoubtedly damage the motivation of the Palestinian fighters. Evaluating the effects of the IDF raid, and those that will follow it, will only be possible in several months time.

PLO Wants 'Nothing More' Than Territories

TA1112123188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Dec 99 pp 1, 8

[Report by David Horovitz, Wolf Blitzer, and Walter Ruby]

[Excerpts] London—Senior PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif, who held talks here on Friday with British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, said yesterday that the PLO was asking for nothing more than the return of the territories.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Abu Sharif said the Palestinians were "very serious about making peace," and that the areas occupied by Israel since 1967 "should be delivered."

"Further than that, we are not asking for more," he added.

At the Foreign Office on Friday, Abu Sharif talked for 40 minutes with Waldegrave, the first such ministerial level meeting in five years. Ambassador Yo'av Biran termed the talks "unhelpful," believing that they only served "the public relations purposes of the PLO."

Before the meeting was allowed to go ahead, Abu Sharif was asked by lower-level British officials to commit himself unequivocally to recognition of Israel, renunciation of terror and violence, and specific endorsement of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. He did so "without any difficulty," Waldegrave said later.

In New York, members of the American Jewish delegation, which met and signed a statement together with a PLO delegation headed by Yasir 'Arafat in Stockholm last week, said on Friday that Secretary of State Shultz had encouraged them to get 'Arafat to make a formal statement accepting Israel.

They added that 'Arafat had said "openly and repeatedly" at the press conference in Stockholm that he accepts Israel's right to exist. They said they expected 'Arafat to state explicitly in Geneva that he accepts Israel's existence, and predicted that the U.S. would then move quickly to open contacts with the PLO.

The delegation members stressed that they had been informed by 'Arafat that the political statement of the Palestine National Council in Algiers last month amounted to an abrogation of the section of the Palestinian National Covenant calling for the destruction of Israel. [passage omitted]

THE POST learned yesterday that the PLO intends to table two resolutions in Geneva this week, one calling for a UN-sponsored peace conference and another urging recognition of the already proclaimed Palestinian state.

The resolutions have been circulating in draft form among European Community leaders in recent days and community sources believe that provided certain phrases can be modified, the first resolution should prove acceptable.

The second, however, is not likely to win community approval. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Denies Shamir Plan To Crush 'Uprising'

TA1212204588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, has categorically denied the report by the American columnists Evans and Novak that he, Ben-Aharon, told the U.S. Administration during a recent visit to Washington that Prime Minister Shamir intends to crush the uprising in the territories and to go full steam ahead with the autonomy plan.

Ben-Aharon told our reporter Jack Katzenell: What I really said was that the continuation of the peace process requires an end to the violence in the territories and direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors on the autonomy plan, and these are the aims of the prime minister.

Shamir Said To Back Peace Talks Under Superpowers

TA0912130188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Israeli Government led by Yitzhaq Shamir will not object to a peace process launched under the auspices of the two superpowers, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said yesterday to Dennis Ross, who is slated to be deputy national security adviser to President-elect George Bush.

During his recent visit to the United States, Ben-Aharon conferred with senior officials who are designated for key positions in the new administration, including Ross, who recently dealt actively with the peace process in the Middle East and the Shultz initiative.

Ben-Aharon said that Israel does not want an international conference, but that a Shamir-led government would continue backing its commitment, given to Shultz in October 1987, to hold peace talks under the auspices of both superpowers with the participation of Egypt. The director general added that the government would take vigorous steps to stop the intifada [uprising] and would take political measures for the establishment of autonomy according to the Camp David accords, assuming that the U.S. Administration does not object.

Ben-Aharon yesterday told HA'ARETZ that his remarks are in accordance with the prime minister's policy according to which Israel is ready to enter talks under the auspices of the two superpowers, but without their intervention in the contents of these talks.

Shamir: U.S. Relations 'Essential' for Security

TA1112103488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Dec 88 p A8

[Report by Adar Avisar]

[Excerpt] "U.S.-Israeli relations have recently reached the peak of cooperation and understanding. Soon, new governments will begin operating in both countries which in certain respects will be extensions of the outgoing governments. These relations with the United States represent an essential prerequisite for our security."

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made these remarks in an address to the opening session of Tel Aviv University's Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum for Leadership and Public Policy. Shamir added: "We have the means to quell the riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but we use them very cautiously because of humane considerations. I hope the Palestinians will let go of the stones and firebombs and join the negotiating table. Immediately upon the establishment of the new government I intend to make another direct appeal to the leaders of our neighboring countries and invite them to the negotiating table." The prime minister emphasized that there would be no negotiations whatsoever with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Peres Seeks Superpower Cooperation in Mideast

TA1312085988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Dec 88 p 12

[Report by Andy Goldberg]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night called for greater superpower cooperation in the Middle East, along with increased involvement by European countries, to advance peace prospects.

Speaking at the closing session of the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum, he made no mention of an international peace conference, and his call for increased U.S.-Soviet cooperation brought him closer to the accepted Likud peace position.

Peres stated that any possible solution would have to come within a Jordanian-Palestinian framework, arguing that Jordan's retreat from responsibility for the territories had given it more room to maneuver.

Peres also laid the groundwork for a possible move to the Finance Ministry by stressing the prominence that economic factors would play in a drive for peace.

"Economic planning is no less important than military strategy; commercial ties no less important than diplomacy," Peres said. "Economic effort may pave the way for serious political solutions," he added.

Peres urged the U.S. and Soviet Union to peddle ideas for peace rather than costly weapons systems. "Moscow now shows a greater responsiveness to peace initiatives. The time has come for a new path," he maintained. "The great powers must support efforts for peace and contribute to regional economic stability. They must increase their influence by political and economic co-operation rather than military competition." [passage omitted]

Pickering as UN Envoy Called 'Good News'

TA0812103988 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 88 p 7

[Editorial: "To the United Nations as a Promotion"]

[Text] The appointment of Thomas Pickering as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations is good news to those who support the resumption of the peace process in the Middle East. Pickering was just about to complete his 3 and ½ years in Israel; a few days before the arrival of his successor, William Brown (who was deputy to former ambassador Sam Lewis), the incoming U.S. Administration of President Bush and Secretary Baker decided to follow through on the intention of outgoing Secretary Shultz to appoint Pickering to a senior State Department post and send Brown to Tel Aviv.

Even though Brown was nominated by the exceptional means of a recess appointment, which does not bind Congress or the new administration for more than 1 year, Baker stood next to Shultz during the appointment ceremony; by doing so he signaled his willingness to give Brown a permanent appointment in Israel. Bush made a surprise move, however, when instead of appointing Pickering to the post of under secretary of state for administration—an important organizational appointment but devoid of political significance—he gave him the job of heading the U.S. delegation to the United Nations.

We should recall that Bush himself served in this post during the early seventies, which is how he began acquiring foreign affairs expertise. He is familiar with the true dimensions of the UN ambassadorship, both its advantages and its limitations. When President Eisenhower wanted to compensate a Republican senator (Henry Cabot Lodge) for his defeat by John Kennedy, he gave him the post of UN ambassador with the rank of secretary. For 53 years [number as published] this position has not changed, being in contradiction to the actual subordination of the ambassador to the secretary of state.

Before the presidential elections Bush had announced his intention to take away cabinet membership from the UN ambassador and the CIA director. Pickering's appointment, together with the appointment of Brent Scowcroft as national security adviser and the decision to leave William Webster as CIA director, all signify that the president wants competent professionals in these spots, not job-seeking politicians, conservative ideologists, or election campaign contributors.

With his experience as ambassador to Jordan in the 1970's and to Israel in the past few years, Pickering should be considered a true friend both of Israel and of the political process. In the international forum in New York his experience and dedication could help bridge the gap between the superpowers and between the countries of the region. His advancement to the United Nations may also advance the peace process, which presently seems more entangled than ever.

Jordanian, Palestinian University Students Clash

JN1012150688 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] A clash occurred in Amman today between Jordan University students supporting the Jordanian Government and others supporting the PLO and incidents in the territories. REUTER says 100 students carrying Jordanian flags and pictures of King Husayn and his grandfather, King 'Abdallah, and a similar number of students demanding that incidents in the territories be supported clashed at the Jordan University campus, using stones and clubs.

REUTER cited eyewitnesese as saying that some of the university's windows were shattered and that the Jordanian students set fire to a red and white Palestinian headdress, after which they trampled it and began to sing songs and chant slogans against leftist parties. The head of this group said Jordan is for Jordanians and all honorable Arabs and that he will not permit anyone to turn Jordan into another Lebanon.

It has been learned that a student fell to the ground after having been stoned and that university guards tried to calm down feelings but without intervening.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Year's 'Uprising' Tolls Reported

TA0912185088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (HOTAM supplement)in Hebrew 9 Dec 88 pp 6, 7

[Report by Avi Bnayahu: "The Uprising in Figures"]

[Text] Days: 365.

Dead and Wounded: Palestinians killed in the West Bank—162. Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip—80. Number of deaths in the Qezi'ot detention facility—2. IDF soldier deaths—2. Israeli civilian deaths—6. Palestinians wounded in the West Bank—2,450. Palestinians wounded in the Gaza Strip—1,010. IDF soldiers' injuries, of all degrees—718. Israeli civilian injuries, of all degrees—391.

Detainees and Deportees: Total number of detainees or others who were locked up for any duration of time in the detention facilities since December 1987—approximately 20,000. Currently in the lockup facilities—5,656 Palestinians; of them 1,590 administrative detainees and 2,064 people detained until the completion of the legal process; 1,625 detainees locked up pending trial, and 377 prisoners serving their sentence.

[In a report on pages 10 and 11 of 'AL HAMISHMAR's HOTAM supplement, reporter Vered Levi notes that "50 Palestinian journalists and editors have been detained for different periods since the outbreak of the uprising. Of them, 24 are presently under administrative detention, generally for a period of several months." She notes that "since the Palestinian press corps numbers approximately 150 to 160 individuals, including journalists, editors, secretaries, graphic artists, administrative staff workers, etc., talking about 50 is tantamount to mentioning the whole branch."]

Number of Palestinians Deported to Lebanon—32. Number of Palestinians served deportation orders—27.

Number of Incidents and the Attendant Price Tag: Number of houses demolished by the IDF in the West Bank—101. Number of houses boarded up by the IDF in the West Bank—36. Number of houses demolished by the IDF in the Gaza Strip—39. Number of houses boarded up by the IDF in the Gaza Strip—12. Incidents in the West Bank (including riots, stone throwings, tire burnings, and road blocks)—15,070. Incidents in the Gaza Strip (including all the above categories)—4,324. Firebomb throwings in the West Bank—969. Firebomb throwings in the Gaza Strip—349. Stabbings in the West Bank—34. Stabbings in the Gaza Strip—11. Incidents of firearms use (shooting) by Palestinians in the West Bank—3. Incidents of firearms use (shooting) in the Gaza Strip—4. Incidents of hand grenade hurling in the West Bank—28. Incidents of hand grenade hurling in the Gaza Strip—5. Roadside charges planted throughout the territories—approximately 15 (unofficial figure).

The per annum cost of the intifada [uprising] to the Israeli economy—approximately 1.5 billion shekels, approximately 500 million directly from the defense budget. During the first year of the intifada an average of approximately 10,000 soldiers were deployed in the territories

daily for some type of related activity. All in all, according to IDF statistics, 3.5 million working days were invested in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1 year.

Since the outbreak of the intifada, hundreds of complaints have been filed against officers and soldiers for what is termed "irregular" cases and "unbecoming conduct." Many of the individuals faced trial before their immediate superiors. Since December 1987, 45 charge sheets have been submitted to the military courts against soldiers accused of activity contravening the regulations on opening fire, assault and battery, and harassment. In 14 of these cases the legal process has ended. There were 13 convictions involving 17 soldiers. In one case two soldiers were acquitted. The penalties range from suspended sentences of different durations, to 1 year in jail for manslaughter. In a number of cases the military prosecution appealed the leniency of the sentence with the military appeals court, seeking a stiffer penalty.

Note: all the figures and statistics provided above were gleaned from information furnished by the IDF spokesman and were based on data held in the IDF's Operations Branch and the Central and Southern Commands. The data on the charges against the soldiers came from the military judge advocate's office. It should be noted that in regard to the casualties and injuries, the Palestinian version, according to various East Jerusalem sources, claims the figures should be higher than those provided by the IDF.

2 Soldiers Wounded in Gaza

TA1112121188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Two IDF soldiers were wounded in the head when stones were thrown at them as they were dispersing riots in the Gaza Strip today at noon. They were taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. One of the soldiers was bandaged and discharged from the hospital while the other soldier, a reservist, is still being treated. The latter was slightly injured. [passage omitted]

Jewish settlers reported this morning that a bus driving Arab laborers was hit by a firebomb near the village of 'Abud, but there were no casualties.

Our correspondent in the territories 'Eran Ben-Porat reports that 70,000 junior high school students in Judaea and Samaria resumed their studies this morning following a 5-month break. Civil Administration officials say that if the school year opening goes off uneventfully, senior high schools will also reopen next week. The senior high school had been used in the past as bases for launching riots. [passage omitted]

Buses Attacked in W. Bank

TA1112204088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] This evening an improvised roadside bomb exploded when an Egged bus passed near it in the village of 'Ayn 'Arik in the Ramallah District. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Security forces launched searches for those who planted the bomb.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that settlers in Samaria complain that the Dan company bus passing through Nabulus is being attacked repeatedly. One of the bus' windshields was smashed by a stone tonight. A half hour later an iron pole was thrown at the bus, punching a hole in the side.

Tear Gas Used in E. Jerusalem

TA1212115788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] There were several disturbances in East Jerusalem today. There were several stoning incidents and improvised roadblocks in the 'Atarot, Wadi al-Jawz, and Al-Tur areas, as well as inside the Old City. The police used tear gas to disperse the rioters. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that an Israeli truck was damaged by a rock in the 'Atarot area. Four rioters have been detained so far.

Update on 11 Dec Incidents

TA1212123188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Joshua Brilliant, Joel Greenberg, and Andy Court]

[Excerpts] Three soldiers were hurt by stones and 20 Palestinians were injured in clashes with troops in the Gaza Strip and West Bank yesterday. [passage omitted]

Casualty tolls in the territories have been on the rise. Most of the wounded in the West Bank have been shot in the Nabulus area, and in villages where troops encountered resistance while carrying out raids to make arrests and to compel residents to remove Palestinian flags and paint over nationlist graffiti. The raids have been carried out almost daily for about a month. [passage omitted]

Troops shot and wounded five Palestinian in the Strip. Khamis al-Baraghma, 18, of the Al-Shati refugee camp, was hit by two bullets in the chest, a Palestinian source said, after youths stoned a patrol.

At the Al-Burayj refugee camp, troops shot and wounded Amir Asa, 25, in the chest and arm, and 46-year-old Sa'ada Barud in the hand, after a clash with stone-throwing youths.

Two other Palestinians were shot in Khan Yunus, a local hospital source said. Akram Abu-Hasnayn, 17, was shot in the back at noon. Later, Yusuf Shinhab, 19, was brought to the local Al-Nasir hospital with a light leg injury, ITIM said.

All the refugee camps in the Strip, except for Al-Nusayrat and Al-Mughazi, were reported under curfew, as were most other areas, excluding Gaza City, Khan Yunus and Dayr al-Balah. But areas not under curfew were affected by a spontaneous strike. [passage omitted]

At Ta'l, near Nabulus, a 29-year-old man was shot in the head in a clash between residents and troops raiding the village. Another villager was shot in the stomach. Soldiers also raided neighbouring 'Iraq Burin, and according to one report, a villager was wounded.

A 21-year-old was wounded in the chest at the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus, and 23-year-old was wounded in the neck.

In Nabulus, six persons were injured in stone-throwing clashes with troops. Youths acting as a local "vice squad" firebombed two cafes used for card-playing, residents reported. Visitors to Nabulus have reported spotting groups of masked youths wielding sticks and hatchets acting as an ad hoc police force, attacking "collaborators" and persons suspected of disreputable behaviour.

A curfew was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp following clashes in which four people were wounded by rubber bullets, Palestinians said. A man was injured in a beating at the 'Askar refugee camp.

In clashes for the second consecutive day at the Farah refugee camp and at Kafr Jammal, near Tulkarm, four people were wounded by gunfire. A Farah resident suffered beating injuries. Troops shot and wounded a protester at the Tulkarm refugee camp.

Stone-throwing clashes between troops and protesters were reported in Tulkarm Janin, Hebron and Bethlehem. Troops broke up a march in Ramallah, Palestinians said. Kafr Ni'mah, near Ramallah, remained under curfew, and the villages of Anzah, Qaffin and Tammun were closed off by the IDF. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 12 December adds: "Two Molotov cocktails were thrown overnight at the home of a resident of the Arab village of Bayt Safafa in southern Jerusalem. There were no injuries or damage."]

8 Wounded in Firebomb Incident

TA1212173688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] This evening, eight passengers—some of them Arabs—traveling on a No 23 bus in Jerusalem, were wounded. The bus swerved on Salah al-Din St and hit a wall after being hit by a Molotov cocktail. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the Molotov cocktail hit the front windshield, and because of the soot the driver could not see the road. The bus hit a private vehicle, and then the side of a house. The wounded persons were transferred to the Hadassah 'En Kerem and Hadassah Mt Scopus Hospitals.

3 E. Jerusalem Schools Closed

TA1212183688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The Jerusalem Education Administration has decided to close down 3 East Jerusalem schools because of the involvement of students from these schools in disturbances. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the schools will remain closed until the beginning of next week.

Curfew Due to 'Arafat Speech

TA1212203588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The entire Gaza Strip has been placed under curfew as of tonight and until further notice. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew was clamped on because of fears in the defense establishment that there will be disturbances against the background of Yasir 'Arafat's speech to the UN General Assembly in Geneva tomorrow. Last week the Gaza Strip was placed under curfew on the occasion of the first anniversary of the uprising in the territories.

'Terror' Squads Uncovered in Gaza Strip

TA1212153288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The security services have uncovered several more Fatah terror squads in the Gaza Strip. Today it was learned that the members of one of them attacked two Jewish boys from Ramat Hasharon last autumn with the intention of murdering them. The members of this squad, from the town of 'Abasan in the Gaza Strip, are also suspected of having thrown Molotov cocktails, and of planning additional attacks inside the Green Line.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that another uncovered squad carried out attacks at hitchhike stations for soldiers, and threw Molotov cocktails at homes of Arabs suspected of being collaborators and at institutions identified with the Civil Administration. In the town of Dayr al-Balah the security services uncovered a squad of terrorists who activated home-made bombs against army patrols in Dayr al-Balah several months ago, and threw Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles traveling in the region. The security services also uncovered an extensive infrastructure of popular committees which operated under the direction of Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP organization.

King, Mubarak Hold Telephone Conversation

JN1012181588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and his brother, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, held a telephone conversation today, during which they exchanged viewpoints on a number of issues of mutual concern within the framework of continuous consultations between the two fraternal countries.

Telephones Saddam, Salih 11 Dec

JN1112183688 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening held telephone conversations with his brother His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, and his brother His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR.

The leaders exchanged viewpoints on current Arab affairs and issues of common concern within the constant consultations between his majesty and his brothers the leaders of the Arab countries.

PLO Official on Status of Joint Committee

JN0912101888 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and PLO representative in Amman, affirmed that the PLO and Jordan are eager about the continuation of the activity of the joint Jordanian- Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of citizens in the occupied Arab territories and about supporting the committee.

He explained that no change has occurred in the situation of the committee as a result of the declaration of the Palestinian state. He said the members of the committee from both sides have been reduced because of the scarcity of support fund resources as a result of Arab states' failure to fulfill their obligations toward it, except for Saudi Arabia.

It is noteworthy that the joint committee used to comprise four ministers and four PLO Executive Committee members. Now, it comprises Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Dr Ahmad Qatanani, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, on the Jordanian side, and PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas and Muhammad Milhim, in addition to experts from both sides.

Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN1212212988 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1938 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Within the framework of consultations and coordination between the PLO and Jordan, Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and PLO representative in Jordan, this morning met with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at the prime minister's office in Amman.

They discussed developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas in general and the historic speech by brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], which he will deliver tomorrow in Geneva, in particular.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Geneva UN Session

JN1112093688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for Geneva yesterday to address the UN General Assembly session on the Palestinian problem scheduled on 13 December. The General Assembly decided to transfer this session to Geneva when the U.S. Government decided to deny PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa.

British Minister Departs Following Visit 9 Dec

JN0912211788 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurement, this evening left Amman following a visit to Jordan which lasted several days. During his visit he met with a number of senior officials and visited a number of military bases and historical sites in the Kingdom.

He was seen off at 'Alia International Airport by Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of the General Staff; the British military attache in Amman; and a number of senior officers.

Group Threatens To Execute Higgins for Spying

Hizballah Radio Report

NC1312071788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The Organization of the Oppressed of the World issued a statement last night, announcing the final verdict that U.S. spy William Higgins, who was arrested on 17 February 1988, is to be executed. The statement, which was received by AL-NAHAR newspaper, says:

This spy has made serious confessions, and available information confirms these confessions. It has been irrefutably proved that he, and his American party, was involved in providing the Zionist enemy with detailed security and military information about the resistance fighters, their positions, their routes, the type and size of their weapons, and their supply routes.

It was also ascertained that there was coordination of information between the Zionist enemy and certain local parties through Higgins and his party.

In reaction to the repeated Israeli aggression against our people in occupied Palestine, Jabal 'Amil, and western Al-Biqa'; in retaliation for the blood of the martyrs who fell during the recent Israeli offensive in Al-Na'imah; and in revenge on America, the world leader of terrorism and the primary supporter of Israeli aggression in terms of weapons, money, and media campaigns; for all this, the final decision to execute this spy has been issued.

The verdict has been referred to the competent authorities for implementation.

VOL: 'No Original Picture'

NC1212213388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2119 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The Organization of the Oppressed of the World has declared that it will execute U.S. hostage William Higgins, commander of the truce supervision forces in South Lebanon, whom it has been holding since last February.

In a statement handed to a world news agency in West Beirut this evening, the organization justifies this verdict by saying that Higgins is a U.S. spy.

It has been noted that no original picture of the hostage was attached to the statement. Instead, a copy of an old picture of Colonel Higgins was attached. However, the phraseology of this statement conforms with that of other statements which were issued by the organization.

AFP: Killing of Belgian Teacher Goes Unclaimed

NC1212135988 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 12 (AFP)—Gunmen shot and killed a 65-year-old Belgian schoolteacher near his home in Moslem-majority West Beirut on Monday, Lebanese police and Belgian officials said.

Arthur van Nieuwerburgh taught English at the American School of Beirut, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Brussels.

The late-morning killing by "three unidentified people" had not been claimed several hours afterwards, he said.

Police said Mr. Nieuwerburgh was shot and killed as he walked on a street some 100 meters (yards) from his home in the Al-Hamra' quarter of West Beirut, which is controlled by the Syrian Army.

Witnesses said at least three men aboard a red Volvo approached Mr. van Niewerburgh and shot him repeatedly in the head and neck with silencer-equipped pistols.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. van Nieuwerburgh had been in Lebanon since 1967, though a Belgian Embassy official fixed his arrival at 1975.

He was married with four children and lived in West Beirut with one of the children, his 17-year-old son, according to the embassy official.

A Belgian doctor, Jan Cools of the Norwegian Aid Committee, was kidnapped May 21 in south Lebanon. Dr. Cools, whose abduction has never been claimed, is among 14 foreigners missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon.

Teacher's Death Confirmed

NC1212144988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Accoprding to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, gunmen assassinated Belgian national Arthur van Nieuwerburgh this afternoon. [passage omitted]

The Voice of Lebanon has telephoned the Belgian charge d'affaires, who confirmed the death of the Belgian national, adding: We know him well. He lives in West Beirut and was killed upon leaving a school in the area, he said.

State of Alert Follows Amal-Hizballah Clash

NC1312064888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] We have just learned that this morning the Joint Security Committee contained a security dispute resulting from an isolated clash between an Amal Movement member and a member of Hizballah in the Al-Hajjaj area of Al-Shiyyah. According to Amal Movement sources, the dispute led to the shelling of the movement's positions in Al-Shiyyah and to a state of alert in several areas, especially Rawdat al-Shahidayn. The security committee is working to obtain the withdrawal of the gunmen and restore the situation to normal.

Birri Assails 'Corrupt' Regime, U.S. Role

NC1112123088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has declared that the Lebanese regime is worn out and corrupt. He added that this regime is responsible for the presence of the occupation forces and that it brought the Americans to Lebanon once, twice, and three times. The Lebanese regime is the worst in the world, he said.

Minister Birri maintained: We will not allow the U.S. or any other administration to peddle the election before an accord has been achieved. Under no circumstances will we accept this step because it would represent the prelude to a new war in 2 or 3 years' time.

Hizballah Calls for Talks With Birri

NC1312090988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Hizballah has issued a statement explaining the events which have been taking place in the Islamic arena. The statement asserts that the assassination by certain Amal members of two brother mujahidin was not the first violation of the security plan in West Beirut, nor will it be the last. There is verified information which indicates that the Amal Movement has a scheme to eliminate the original Islamic presence in the region.

According to the statement, the Amal Movement claims that the revelation of the names of the persons who engineered and carried out these criminal acts represents a violation of the agreement to stop media campaigns. This claim, the statement adds, is illogical, because the question of ending media campaigns is taken care of in the second article of an initiative launched by Brother Besharati in Beirut. The first article of this initiative provides for a cease-fire and for an end to aggression. If the party is asked to commit itself to the second article, the movement should stop its acts of aggression and assassinations. It should also stop media campaigns launched through its rallies, statements, magazines, or other means.

It should be noted that everything issued by the party comes as a response to or as an explanation of the lies and falsifications spread by the Amal Movement.

The statement contends that actions carried out under false pretexts connected with the Al-Awza'i incident [the assassination of three Amal officials] merely constitute a suspect attempt to hamper efforts by those sincere elements who want to nip sedition in the bud. [passage omitted]

So far, we have not opened the file of our assassinated martyrs outside the borders of the contrived battle and clashes, because we are still seeking a way to nip sedition in the bud to save the Islamic arena and allow for confrontation of Israel and its Zionized agents in East Beirut and the occupied strip.

In conclusion, the statement says: We believe that the only way to end the crisis is for Minister Birri and his group to sit at the negotiating table to reach an understanding based on an agreement not to try to eliminate either party but to achieve the Islamic goal which safeguards the nation's pride and dignity.

Museum Crossing Opens; Supply Convoys Barred

NC1312092188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] There is light traffic at the Museum crossing point which was opened this morning. However, the crossing remains closed to food, gas, and fuel convoys. Meanwhile, the Franciscan crossing point is open to military and diplomatic cars as well as to pedestrians.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Position in Rshaf

NC1212170588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] A national resistance group attacked a position manned by enemy troops and agents in Rshaf last night with machineguns and rockets. A 10-minute clash ensued between the group and the enemy personnel. The resistance group managed to hit the observation post and to kill all the troops inside it.

In a statement on the operation, the Lebanese Resistance Front pointed out that the occupation forces immediately mounted a large-scale search campaign which involved the nearby valleys, and pounded the outskirts of Haddathah with flat-trajectory weapons for 1 hour.

Kuwaiti Paper Says Lahd Died 'a Week Ago'

NC1312074488 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Leadership sources in the agent Lahd militia have affirmed that [South Lebanese Army Commander] Lahd died of his wounds in the Zionist Rambam Hospital in Haifa a week ago. In a statement carried by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, these sources said the occupation authorities decline to disclose the death of agent Lahd until a substitute to lead the agent militia is found.

The paper adds that officers of the agent militia went to the Zionist Rambam Hospital a few days ago to meet Lahd or his wife, who had been with him, but one of his guards told them that Lahd had died few days before, that his body had been put in the hospital's mortuary until further notice, and that the occupation authorities decline to announce his death.

Reportage on Economic Talks With SFRY's Zemljaric

Zemljaric Begins Talks 10 Dec

JN1012155288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—Official Syrian-Yugoslav talks began at the Prime Ministry this morning. They were headed by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the Federal Executive Council. Economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation relations and ways to expand them in order to increase the volume of trade and diversify the goods exchanged by the two friendly countries were reviewed.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of setting up joint companies to implement some enterprises. They indicated the need to establish a general framework to develop scientific, technical and technological cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, tourism, health, and other areas. A number of joint committees were formed and began meetings to draw up plans and programs in these areas.

The Syrian and Yugoslav sides stressed their joint desire to develop and enhance the prospects of existing cooperation in a manner that serves economic development and rises to the level of the existing bilateral political relations.

Confers With Al-Shar'

JN1012163788 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, 10 Dec (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Janez Zemljaric, Yugoslav vice president of the Federal Executive Council, today. The current arrangements to convene the forthcoming summit of the Nonaligned Movement in Yugoslavia and the current situation in the region were discussed during the meeting.

Visits Prime Minister

JN1112131188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1200 this noon received Janez Zemljaric, Yugoslav vice president of the Federal Executive Council, in the presence of Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, and Sabah Baqjaji, state minister for planning affairs.

Zemljaric conveyed the greetings of Branko Mikulic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and good wishes for the Syrian Arab people. He affirmed the strong relations between the two countries. The prime minister thanked him and sent similar greetings to Mikulic and his good wishes to the friendly Yugoslav people.

Talks centered on economic relations and means of promoting and developing them for the sake of the joint interests and benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples.

Meets With Transport Minister

JN1112155088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, 11 Dec (SANA)—Transport Minister Eng Yusuf al-Ahmad met here today with Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council. The talks dealt with bilateral cooperation in various transport fields as well as the possibility of establishing further ties on this level, particularly regarding trade and technical exchanges and the exchange of technical delegations to study joint action fields.

Concludes Session

JN1112152088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1453 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, 11 Dec (SANA)—A session of economic talks concluded here today between the Syrian Arab side led by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the SFRY side led by Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council.

In this meeting, they finished discussing the raised topics related to ways of enhancing and promoting economic and technical cooperation as well as trade exchanges in order to serve the common interest of both friendly countries and peoples.

They also discussed the results attained in the meetings of the joint technical committees. The two sides emphasized their identical views on the various topics raised during the talks. They explained that both countries are interested in bolstering bilateral cooperation in various economic, trade, and technical fields and in the field of companies and various projects.

Conveys Message to President

JN1112165688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad received Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, at 1600 today. The meeting was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and Davorin Kostanjsek, SFRY ambassador in Damascus.

Zemljaric conveyed to the president a message from SFRY President Ra'if Dizdarevic on the coming nonaligned states' conference. He also conveyed to his excellency the greetings of the SFRY president and leadership. The president asked him to convey his greeetings and good wishes to President Dizdarevic and the SFRY leadership and to the friendly SFRY people. The talks dealt with the coming ninth nonaligned summit conference, the latest developments in the regional situation, and the consolidation and promotion of relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the president stressed Syria's adherence to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region through an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices. Such a conference should be able to establish peace and grant the Palestinian Arab people their national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of a national state on Palestinian land, the president added.

Departs 11 Dec

JN1112204688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this evening at the end of a several-day visit to Syria.

Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; and the SFRY ambassador in Damascus were present at Damascus International Airport to see off the SFRY delegation.

Damascus Radio Views Israel's Lebanon Operation

JN1012154288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Yesterday, a combined Israeli force consisting of land, sea, and air units carried out an aggression against a wide coastal strip south of Beirut extending to the Shuf and Mount Lebanon. The operation was not exactly a picnic for the aggressors or a cheap military victory. The price: an Israeli colonel killed and failure of the aggression to attain its avowed goal. The Israeli Army, long purported to be invincible, had to use all types of weapons to secure a withdrawal following hostilities against a group of Palestinian and Lebanese fighters lacking the American destroyers, boats, and the fighters and helicopters in Israel's possession.

The Palestinian and Lebanese will to fight triumphed over the Israeli Army, reconfirming that the spirit of the October war of liberation that unleashed the will of the Arab individual and released his capacity for liberation has imbued the hearts of the strugglers. It has also brought home the message that martyrs have become the beacon for fighters and there is no retreating before the enemy—the slogan raised by the pan-Arab leader President Hafiz al-Asad as a model for all Arab strugglers and resistance.

The Israeli military aggression has rebounded on its perpetrators, marked a fresh setback for Israeli militarism, and signaled that Israel's war machine will not be able to paint the landscape of the future or kill the Arab will to resist. Politically speaking, the aggression was an abysmal failure for the rulers of Israel: It has proved to the world that these rulers, who are playing on terrorism to dodge the peace process, are the true terrorists who have turned terrorism into a state policy executed by regular forces against individuals and groups. It has also proved that these rulers who level the charge of terrorism against national liberation movements are the ones who introduced terror into the region and that it is they who are practising terror systematically to force a fait accompli on the international community.

The aggression is a fresh reminder to the international community that Israel, as far as international law and legitimacy is concerned, is a pariah and sets no store by international norms, agreements, and laws. The aggression is also an indication that by committing aggression against an independent member state of the United Nations, Israel is flying in the face of the whole world, depending on the weapons and consistent political support provided by the U.S. Administration. The latest manifestation of this support is the lifing of the embargo on the export of cluster bombs to Israel and taking its side against all members of the UN General Assembly. The Israeli aggression on Lebanon is a fresh reminder that Israel is the true stumbling block to a just and true peace in the region.

The international community is pressing for a UN-sponsored international Mideast peace conference to be attended by all the parties concerned, and serious efforts are being made to bring the spirit of international detente to bear on the Middle East conflict. And yet the rulers of Israel engage in saber rattling, mounting aggression, and encroachments against others. It may be that the Israelis are out to start a major conflagration to end current international efforts to get the international conference convened and maybe even to superpower detente itself. Such criminal intentions are not uncharacteristic of the thinking and planning of the Israeli rulers, who are opposed to international detente and rapprochement between the USSR and the United States as well as the international conference and a just peace.

The Israeli aggression should alert the world to the gravity of the role being played by Israel's rulers as well as the need to paralyze the hands of the warmongers before they start uncontrollable fires.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Downed Plane

LD1212161388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy to Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a strong protest of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him by the acting head of the First Political Section.

According to the reports by the security authorities an AN-32 passenger aircraft of the Republic of Afghanistan was shot down over Khowst major district by two Pakistani warplanes. Twenty-five passengers, all civilians, were martyred, including three children and a woman.

The Government of the Republic of Afghnistan lodged a strong protest with the Government of Pakistan on the aggression and airspace violation of these military planes, which resulted in the bloodshed of innocent people and violates all accepted international norms and standards.

Pakistan's responsible authorities were asked to present a necessary explanation in this regard and to avoid the repeat of such inhumane actions. Otherwise the responsibility of their grave consequences will rest on Pakistani authorities.

Wakil Departs for UN Geneva Session on PLO

LD1212194788 Kabul Domestic in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Mr 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, left for Switzerland today to take part in the UN General Assembly debate on the Palestinian issue, scheduled for 13-15 December in Geneva.

Minister of Internal Affairs Aslam Watanjar; Muhammad Sakhi Daneshjo; Foreign Ministry officials; His Excellency Y. Vorontsov, ambassador of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan; Mr (Yasin), charge d'affaires of Palestine in Kabul; and His Excellency (Roy Swansen), head of the UN Development Office in Afghanistan, were present at Kabul International Airport to say farewell to the minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

145th, 146th Violation Notices Submitted

LD1212091488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 11, BAKHTAR—145th and 146th notices of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan were submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP.

The notices underlined that the Pakistani authorities send assorted weapons including explosive materials, hand grenades, anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines to Afghanistan as well as it sends terrorists to organise subversive activities such as the recent explosion in the adjacent of Millie Bus [as received] and planting of mines in different parts of the country causing the death and injury of innocent persons.

The notice asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations according to Paragraph No. 7, and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general representative.

Iran-Based Alliance Says USSR Wants Direct Talks

LD1112180488 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—The Soviet Union has offered to hold direct talks with leaders of the Afghan resistance based in Iran on the future of war-torn Afghanistan, a mujahidin spokesman said.

"This is a victory for the mujahidin," said Khalili in a press conference Sunday. "After ten years of occupation the Soviets were finally forced to accept that the Afghan people and the mujahidin have a major role and have yielded to talks."

He said Moscow had made the offer to the eight-party alliance in Iran following talks between the seven-party Pakistan-based mujahidin alliance and Soviet officials in Saudi Arabia.

But he added that the eight-party alliance were currently studying the offer and "we have not yet made any decision," to accept or refuse it. A delegation from the seven-party alliance is due in Tehran to give advice, he added.

The Iran-based alliance is made up of Hezbollah of Afghanistan, the Popular Front of Afghanistan, the Islamic Resurgence of Afghanistan, the Islamic Movement, the United Islamic Call, the Islamic Jihad Guards, the Islamic Forces Organization and the Nasr Organization.

Khalili said the mujahidin would not attack those Soviet troops which were pulling out of Afghanistan but Soviet troops in barracks and around population centers would remain under fire.

Another member of the eight-party alliance called on the Peshawar-based alliance to join hands and cooperate for the formation of a joint government.

"Establishment of a government in Afghanistan and its future necessitates that the mujahidin based in Pakistan and Iran be together," Khalili said.

He rejected the idea of a coalition government with the current regime in Kabul and stressed that the future government should be "based on Islamic principles."

Mujahidin Spokesman on Gorbachev Proposals

NC1212073688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Interview with unidentified spokesman of the Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan by unidentified Voice of Iran correspondent; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Gorbachev recently presented some proposals to you for establishing peace in Afghanistan. As the spokesman of the Coalition Council, please give us your opinion.

[Spokesman] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Gorbachev presented a series of new proposals at the United Nations which from our viewpoint will not only be unable to establish peace in Afghanistan but will also add to its problems. The people of Afghanistan and all the resistance forces, particularly the Coalition Council, will not accept a ceasefire with the Soviet forces and the coupist regime. An armed jihad will continue until the coupist regime falls. The presence of the UN peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan and the convocation of an international conference to decide on the future of Afghanistan are condemned by the people of Afghanistan. They will never accept these proposals.

As regards the halt in aid to the coupist regime as proposed by Gorbachev to the United Nations, we hope that the Soviet officials, especially Mr Gorbachev, will in practice prove and affirm definitively that they have halted their support for the coupist regime. We are positive that with the cessation of Soviet assistance to the coupist regime, it will definitely be toppled and eliminated.

[Correspondent] What is the Coalition Council's view on the Al-Ta'if talks? Will it accept these talks?

[Spokesman] In the present conditions we consider the talks a fresh victory for the people of Afghanistan, as compared with previous victories. This is because the Soviet Union made immense efforts to resolve the Afghan issue without the presence of the resistance forces or the Islamic factions, as was apparent in the Geneva talks—which met with defeat. The Soviets then finally decided that they had no recourse but to resolve the Afghanistan issue through talks with the mujahidin and the Islamic factions, whether based in Iran or Pakistan.

The convening of these talks, from our point of view, is a triumph. However, regarding the quality of the talks, it is natural that they are not very (?comprehensive), as only a section of the mujahidin were present. The (?other) factions, whether the Coalition Council or all the forces of our Sunni brothers in Peshawar, did not participate and that was a major weakness in those talks.

Rebels Kill 8 Kabul Regime Soldiers in Qandahar

BK1212103688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say, the mujahidin killed eight and injured a number of Kabul soldiers in an operation in the Dand subdivision of Qandahar Province. They also launched rocket attacks on a military base in the subdivision. An ammunition depot was totally burnt down and an armored car and an oil tanker were damaged.

Mujahidin Operations in Several Provinces Noted

BK1212112088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin conducted operations in and around Herat city, killing 45 Kabul regime troops and destroying 3 tanks and 5 vehicles. And they also launched successful operations in Balkh, Konduz, Baghlan, Parvan, Ghazni, Qandahar, (?Jowzjan), and Paktia Provinces.

Bangladesh

Ershad Felicitates Ishaq Khan on Election

BK1212165088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] In Pakistan, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan has been elected president. According to an official result announced by Pakistan television, Mr Khan secured 233 out of 299 [figures as heard] votes polled in the two houses of Parliament today. His rival Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan secured 39 votes.

Meanwhile, President Ershad has felicitated Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan on his election as the president of Pakistan. In a message today he wished good health, long life and success of the newly elected president and continued peace, progress, and prosperity of the brotherly people of Pakistan. President Ershad also expressed the hope that the cordial and brotherly relations existing between the two countries will be further consolidated.

PRC Cultural, Journalists' Delegations Arrive

BK1212031588 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The Chinese vice minister for culture, Mr Liu Deyou, arrived in Dhaka last night at the head of a four-member delegation. During its stay the delegation will sign a cultural exchange program between the two countries for 1989-91.

Another six-member Chinese journalists delegation also arrived in the capital yesterday on a good-will visit at the invitation of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists. It is being led by Ling Yangnin. They will exchange opinion with the journalists and government leaders and visit different places of interest in the country.

Meet With President Ershad

BK1212132688 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The visiting six-member Chinese journalists delegation called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. The president welcomed the Chinese journalists and said contacts between the peoples of the two countries at various level will help further strengthen the already existing strong bonds of friendship. Referring to the Chinese assistance in the development of Bangladesh, President Ershad said Bangladesh wants stronger cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The leader of the delegation, Madame Ling Yangnin, said Bangladesh is one of the greatest friends of China and the visit has given the members of the delegation an opportunity to meet friendly people of this country.

The Chinese delegation arrived in Bangladesh Sunday night.

India

Three States To Elect Assemblies Next Month

BK1312080888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, and Mizoram will go to the polls on the 21st of next month to elect their assemblies. Announcing this, the deputy election commissioner, Mr R.P. Bhalla, said in New Delhi today that the notification calling for the polls will be issued on the 17th for Mizoram and on the 19th of this month for Tamil Nadu and Nagaland. Mr Bhalla said there will be no by-elections to any of the parliamentary or assembly seats.

According to the election schedule, the last date for filing of nominations for Mizoram will be the 24th, for Tamil Nadu the 26th, and for Nagaland the 28th of this month. Scrutiny will take place on the 27th for Tamil Nadu, 28th for Mizoram, and for Nagaland on the 29th of December. Last date for withdrawal of candidatures for Tamil Nadu is 29th, for Mizoram the 30th, and for Nagaland the 31st of this month.

Darjeeling Gurkha Council Polls Set for 13 Dec

BK1212125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Nearly 3.5 lakh voters in the Darjeeling hill areas go to the polls tomorrow to elect 26 members for the 42-member Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council. Arrangements for the poll are complete. Two seats have already been won uncontested by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader, Mr Subhash Ghisingh, and Mrs Gopmaya Gurung. The GNLF has fielded candidates for all the 26 seats, while CPI-M and CPI are jointly contesting 22 seats, and the Congress-I 8.

Better Ties With Pakistan Under Bhutto Seen

BK0912120888 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Dec 88 p 11

[Editorial: "Wazir-e Azam (Prime Minister) Benazir"]

[Text] Ms Benazir Bhutto's taking over as the Prime Minister of Pakistan is an event of major significance for the sub-continent. Out of the ashes of long years of army's rule that stifled the growth of the nation, democracy seems to have returned to it offering its people a chance to breathe freely and mould their own destiny. That Ms Benazir Bhutto should be a carrier of that free spirit within a few months of the death in an aircrash of her father's executor may denote retributive justice that is not uncommon in political affairs, but the event is more important than the high drama that gets associated with lives and ambitions of men and women who come to matter.

The people of Pakistan have been waiting for democracy for a long time but did not know how they should free themselves from under the jackboots. The election that has made Ms Benazir Bhutto Prime Minister of her country has given her as well as the people of her country once again a chance to feel that it is better to straddle along under a democracy than suffer under men in khaki who have nothing to promise but weapons—nuclear or otherwise—and who always deprive the people of what they need most.

That Ms Benazir Bhutto should be the first woman to be elected a ruler in the entire Muslim world gives the event an importance even beyond the sub-continent. There is a message for this for not only the women of Pakistan but of the entire Muslim world: They need not reconcile themselves to remaining underdogs. This message is important even if societal changes take a long time in Muslim as well as other societies.

We also wish Ms Benazir Bhutto good luck, which she would need considering that democracy is fragile in Pakistan. There are major challenges which she will have to face with skill, courage and some wisdom. Some in the Pakistan Army would be feeling uneasy having lost some of their clout. Having tasted power they would wait for an opportunity to get back what they have lost. Also there are fundamentalists who may not feel reconciled to a woman ruling an Islamic country. They can always join hands with the disgruntled in khaki. But it is worth meeting these challenges.

Ms Benazir Bhutto's emergence on the scene also offers a chance for ending an unfortunate chapter of relations between India and Pakistan. For too long the two countries have lived in an atmosphere of mutual distrust and hatred.

If these could be replaced by trust and friendliness, the people on both sides of the divide would think she has performed a subcontinental role. The SAARC meeting, to be held in Islamabad later this month, provides an occasion for the Prime Minister of the two countries for putting Indo-Pakistan relations on a new track.

Commentary on Science, Technology Pact With PRC
BK0912122988 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Commentary by "political commentator" Sunil Roy: "India and China To Sign Science and Technology Agreement"]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in less than a fortnight has raised hopes in both the countries of an expected thaw in somewhat formal relations. China sees the visit as an historic one, taking place after a gap of 3 and ½ decades. Hopes are also being expressed on either side that the prime minister's visit would lay the foundation for a solution to the boundary question that bedeviled relations of both countries since late 1950's.

The Indian leadership has noted of late China's changed policy toward India. This perceptible shift in China's policy has apparently been inspired by a desire on its part to see more friendly countries around to concentrate on developmental activities. While there is no two opinions on the need to restore confidence and trust in each other that would benefit both the countries, the crux of relations lies on the solution of a long-standing border dispute. China even launched an open war in 1962 against India and withdrew its forces unilaterally after scoring initial success to let the world believe in its intentions. The people of India still bear a psychological scar of the war in their mind.

Seven years ago, to be precise on 10 December 1981, officials of both countries began their first round of talks in Beijing to find an agreed solution to problems that stood in the way of improved relations. Even after eight rounds of talks, officials failed to strike a common ground on which a just solution to the border dispute could be arrived at, but nothing of the kind happened. It was, however, felt that relations in other areas could be developed, pending settlement of the border question.

Against this background, the Indian prime minister is undertaking his journey to Beijing. Early this week, members of the consultative committee of Parliament attached to the External Affairs Ministry had occasions to exchange views on the forthcoming visit. It was made known for the first time that some important agreements are expected to be signed, including one of cooperation in science and technology. Some months ago, India and China signed a cultural agreement. Even before the conclusion of this agreement, exchange of visits covering a wide spectrum of culture was taking place. Underlining the significance of the visit, the minister of external affairs, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, have quoted the Chinese officials as saying it was a major and historic event which will have positive effect on peace in the region.

Indeed, Mr Gandhi himself has said that the resumption of exchanges at the highest level with China would go a long way toward rebuilding bilateral relationship and would be in the best interest for peace and stability in Asia and the world. Mr Gandhi set the tone of his coming visit to China when he told his party colleagues on Wednesday [7 December] that agreements are important, but more important is the mutual exchange of views and understanding which will promote a better relationship. He was aware that a visit of a few days to China could not solve all problems. Perhaps keeping in mind the China-India conflict in 1962 Mr Gandhi said national sentiments and national dignity have to be understood and respected. He included the Chinese people's national sentiments to be given a due place in solving mutual problems. Perhaps keeping in view the general interest his visit to China has aroused in India, Mr Gandhi spoke of what he called a new feeling and understanding in the region so that neighbors may coexist peacefully.

For countries of India and China with considerable population and land area, there is no limit to cooperation. But this precludes the use of violence to settle the score. There are so many areas in which India can profitably contribute to China's goal of modernization, now in its 10th year. But before any such cooperation could be extended, China must appreciate the feelings in India when it attacked India. It is quite possible more agreements will be signed during his visit to China. Whatever the agreement, it will be in the interest of mutual relations of both the countries. In order to benefit from India's sustained planning of over 35 years, China must show its readiness to accept India's capability to help its modernization drive.

Iran

Khamene'i on Contribution of Brotherhood Charter
LD1112140188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpts] We begin this hour's news reports with a report about President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's trip to Fars Province.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in Shiraz this morning to participate in a ceremony to honor Ayatollah Dastgheyb, the second martyr of the prayer niche, and to meet the people and tribes of Fars Province. He was given an official welcome at the airport.

On arrival, the president gave an interview in which he answered questions from the Central News Unit's reporter. In connection with the contribution of the

Brotherhood Charter to the Islamic ummah's unity and uniformity, he said: The Brotherhood Charter gives a new spirit to the revolution. Fortunately, a great deal of activity has taken place in order to implement that charter so that brothers, who were never far apart but who were at some distance from one another because of some opinions, will find their hearts approaching one another under the influence that charter, which has a conciliatory message. The people will then witness the sweet fruit of brotherhood.

Continuing the interview, Mr Khamene'i spoke about the reasons behind and the consequences of the recent military attack against southern Lebanon by the regime occupying Jersulam. He said: The Zionist regime's attack on Lebanon had no reasonable justification and was unsuccessful. There are various interpretations in that connection. Nevertheless, what is clear is that the Zionist regime is waiting to take advantage of the situation inside Lebanon, but it did not gain anything with its recent attack.

The president also expressed the hope that that aggressive act by the regime occupying Jerusalem will lead to the unity of (?various) groups, particularly Lebanon's Muslims, and that they will target the main enemy—Israel. In the face of the threat from the Zionist regime, they should unite to combat the main enemy instead of becoming embroiled in disagreements.

The president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council spoke about Iran's reaction to the Iraqi regime's obstructionism with regard to implementing UN Resolution No 598 and establishing peace. He said: Our position with respect to the resolution has not changed and we are (?prepared) to act on all the clauses of the resolution. In that connection, we will not accept any bullying from any quarter.

In conclusion, he noted that the revolutionary Iranian nation is famous around the world for not giving into bullying tactics and for only listening to words of reason. In that connection, bearing in mind that we have not succumbed to bullying by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the Iraqi Government should know where it stands. [passage omitted]

Addresses Group on Uprisings

LD1212181188 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Dec. 12, IRNA—Most of the Arab states who had supported the Iraqi war have realised that the Baghdad regime is not trustworthy, President 'Ali Khamene'i said today.

"The situation demands constant alertness on our borders against such a neighbor," he told a gathering in Marv Dasht.

Khamene'i who started the tour of this southern province Sunday also dwelt on the spread of Islamic movements around the globe, after the Islamic revolution's triumph in Iran (1979).

"Before, all movements were said to be leftist-inspired, while a glance at Muslim populated countries over the past decade shows all uprisings are Islamic in nature," he added.

Commentary on Gorbachev's Troop Reduction Plan

NC1112131888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, stated at the UN General Assembly on Wednesday 7 December that the Soviet Union will unilaterally withdraw 500,000 of its soldiers that are deployed in Eastern Europe and in the European part of the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

On the Armed Forces stationed in the Asian part of the Soviet Union, the Soviet leader stated that these forces too will be considerably reduced and that Moscow will, with the agreement of Mongolia, withdraw a large number of its forces from that country.

Since Gorbachev assumed power in Moscow, arms talks and the improvement of East-West relations have been among the major topics of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. During this time, the Soviet leaders have always voiced their wish to continue the talks on arms control and to achieve a practical outcome by putting forward various proposals. [passage omitted]

The new generation of Soviet leaders, which accords priority to economic reconstruction, is—by proposing new plans on arms control—seeking ways to avoid an arms race. In line with this and following the Soviet leader's visit to the United States last year and his meeting with President Reagan, the pact on removing medium- and short-range missiles from Europe and the entire world was signed.

Even though this pact relates only to about 4 percent of the two superpowers' nuclear arsenal, nevertheless it is of significance because it is the first pact on the dismantling and destruction of nuclear weapons. Past agreements only called for the limitation of such arms. This came at a time when, in addition, talks on the reduction of strategic arms by 50 percent are continuing. At any rate, by bearing in mind the fact that Europe is now the scene of the largest concentration of forces and weapons of the two blocs, any reduction in forces can only be welcomed. [passage omitted]

In their first session after Gorbachev's speech, NATO foreign ministers welcomed the Soviet leader's initiative and proposed that 50 percent of the Eastern and Western armored forces in both parts of Europe be reduced and that the number of NATO and Warsaw Pact tanks be cut to 40,000. [passage omitted]

The NATO proposal and the Soviet initiative undoubtedly open a new chapter in the limitation of military rivalries. Even though political analysts do not agree on the outcome of the recent developments to this effect, it seems that, as the issue of domestic reform is of special importance, the Moscow leaders are—by intensifying their activities in foreign affairs and by solving the Soviet Union's problems in foreign policy—seeking the necessary calm.

During recent days we have witnessed Moscow's intensive activities in its relations with India, China, West Europe, and the United States. These activities will ultimately lead to stability and to the consolidation of Moscow's relations with these countries. It will, at the same time, give the Moscow leaders peace of mind so that they can pay more attention to domestic affairs. Meanwhile, these initiatives will overshadow the program for the modernization of the arms deployed in Europe. Also, in view of the new developments, the allocation of greater amounts of money for military purposes by the European countries will face difficulties and, ultimately, it seems that the great concentration of forces—particularly in West Germany—will be reviewed.

Besharati Comments on Expansion of Relations

LD1112112688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0750 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Interview with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified correspondent on the "Holy Defense" program; date place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In the name of God, and with greetings and a good morning to everyone of you our dear listeners and beloved fighters. Dear friends, this is a welcome opportunity to be received by our dear brother Mr Besharati, the honorable deputy foreign minister. While thanking him for granting this interview, as the first question I would like to ask him to speak on the Islamic Republic's foreign policy after the acceptance of UN Resolution No 598, and to ask him whether this has led to any change in our foreign policy in establishing relations with other countries.

[Besharati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I too want to express my warmest and most sincere greetings to all our dear fighting brothers and I do hope that God will also enable us to partake in the recompense bestowed upon the fighters of Islam. Regarding this question, I should say that after accepting the resolution there has been no change in our foreign policy. The resolution is about a peaceful end to the war. It had been approved a year earlier and we accepted it toward the end of last Mordad [month begining 23 July].

However, as our military presence at the fronts and our engagement against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime imposed certain limitations on us, then naturally we felt a certain imbalance in some areas in our foreign policy. For example, when we felt that a country was doing all it could to help Iraq, we could not expand our relations with that country. We were forced to modify our policies. Now, after accepting the resolution and establishing the cease-fire, we are not faced with those limitations. It is natural that we can hold discussions more easily with those countries desiring friendly relations with us, when this is not against our principles, or we can try to expand our diplomatic, economic, and commercial relations. In a word, there has been no change in our policy.

[Correspondent] Mr Besharati, recently we witnessed your trips to some regional countries and Persian Gulf littoral states. Please tell us what policies we are pursuing toward regional countries. Also, what importance do we attach to the creation of some regional organization [tashakkol]?

[Besharati] Ever since the Islamic Revolution's victory we have always announced that in our foreign policy we give priority to Islamic countries, followed by other neighboring countries, Third World and nonaligned countries; and then other countries.

It is natural that we should expand our relations with all our neighboring countries, particularly with the Arab States around the Persian Gulf. You are aware that in connection with Article 8 of Resolution 598, which deals with security in the Persian Gulf and general regional security, we have always announced that the establishment of security in the Persian Gulf should be carried out by regional countries.

It is natural that only under those circumstances can we demand the unconditional withdrawl of foreign forces from the region. If we expand our relations with our neighboring Arab countries, the superpowers will no longer have an excuse to maintain their military presence, particularly as we have had ancient, historical, and good relations with the Arabs in the region, with our Arab friends, in addition to the fact that we are neighbors. A large number of Iranians live there, about 137,000 or 140,000 [as heard—place not specified]. They have gone there since [words indistinct] and have performed valuable services.

In any case, those countries are Islamic Conference Organization members. They have great regional resources and are also mostly OPEC members. Therefore, we can work with them in OPEC as well. If we have great coordination and cooperation with them in all these spheres, especially in OPEC, then we can certainly defend the price of oil so that we will not have the

present chaos, confusion, and disorder in the price and production of OPEC oil which exists today, and that Western industrialized countries do not so misuse this unstable market.

In short, we see no obstacle to expanding our relations with the Persian Gulf Arab states. Frequently, I personally have made numerous visits to the regional countries and have had long, friendly, and sincere meetings with those countries' leaders. On one level, these meetings were very important, as I went to those countries with the esteemed president's messages. After accepting the cease-fire, we expressed our country's complete readiness to expand relations with those countries and the latter are also completely prepared to expand relations.

[Correspondent] Mr Besharati, in view of the fact that during 8 years of holy defense we have seen some regional countries support the Iraqi regime, how do you feel about such countries and governments?

[Besharati] Of course, this is a very important question. Many people may be waiting for or expecting that the Islamic Republic now wishes to take revenge on those countries and punish them; but this has never been the Iranian view. We envision a bright future. We feel we have turned a new page in our relations with those countries. We forgive the past. The bright horizon of our future relations is more important to us than remembering the negative aspects of the past. In short, according to the Holy Koran: "God has forgiven what has gone before". What is past is past. We should look to the future.

Poland's Rakowski, Khamene'i Review Relations
LD1012121088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] This morning President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received Polish Parliament Speaker Roman Malinowski, who is visiting Iran at the head of a parliamentary delegation.

According to a Central News Unit report, the meeting was also attended by a number of the two countries' dignitaries and their ambassadors. The Polish parliament speaker conveyed the Polish president's greetings and submitted a report to the president on the positive results of his talks with the our country's high ranking officials.

He remarked on the developments in the two countries' relations and cooperation, since the victory of the Islamic revolution. He also pointed out the Polish people's interest in Persian culture and literature, calling for further bilateral cooperation in various fields.

On the basis of this report Mr Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the Polish president's kind message and welcomed any deepening and expanding of bilateral relations. He then remarked on the Islamic Republic's foreign policy regarding relations with the world's independent countries, and said that since the victory of the Islamic revolution, we have welcomed the establishment of relations with those countries that want to have equal political and economic ties.

The president continued by referring to the 8-year-old war, which was imposed on the Islamic Republic, and to the present chance to draw future plans. He said that our intelligent and active people, with a strong motivation for defending the country and the revolution, also managed to assist in the reconstruction of the country. This brought many creative abilities in the reconstruction and management of the country to our attention.

At the end of his speech Mr Khamene'i pointed out that both Iran and Poland have tasted the bitter experience of wars' destruction, and will also experience their countries' reconstruction. He considered this issue a suitable basis for the expansion and deepening of relations between the two countries.

Velayati Sends Message to Yugoslav Counterpart
LD1212182788 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Belgrade, Dec. 12, IRNA—The Yugoslav foreign minister declared his country's support for full enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on Iraq-Iran conflict.

Budimir Loncar who received a message today from Foreign Minsiter 'Ali Akbar Velayati through Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Javad Asayesh, termed U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's 4-point plan the "best formula for peace between Iran and Iraq."

Besides Tehran-Belgrade ties, Velayati's message dealt with the trend of the peace talks including the Iraqi regime's obstructions.

Lebanon's Shaykh Shams al-Din Meets Mohtashemi
NC1212080088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Current events in Lebanon and Muslim unity were discussed during a meeting between Shaykh Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Council, and Interior Minister Mr Mohtashemi. In this meeting, Shaykh Shams al-Din explained the present situation in Lebanon, which he termed complicated.

Mr Mohtashemi then lauded the anti-Zionist, anti-U.S. struggles of the Hizballah in Lebanon and its defense of Muslim honor and prestige. He said: The United States, Israel, and the Arab reactionaries wish to cut off the roots of the Hizballah in Lebanon through their mercenary agents. He added: All Muslim nations consider the Islamic revolution the mother revolution, which which

they identify and consider responsible for the fate of Islam and the Muslims. The effects of the revolution can be clearly perceived in Lebanon.

Regarding the anti-Zionist struggles in southern Lebanon, the interior minister said: There are no differences between the devout Muslims, the Hizballah, the Amal Movement, and those who are fighting against Israel. However, there are some suspicious individuals who are trying to create sedition. The Muslims should form a united front and eliminate all kinds of sedition.

Stressing that in southern Lebanon the Hizballah should have freedom of action in its struggle for the complete destruction of Israel, he said: The acceptance of Resolution No 425, that is, admitting the existence of the usurpist Jerusalem regime, will be disavowed by every honorable Muslim.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC's Future

LD0912234788 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) faced critical times ahead but the oil market would remain stable if Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait cooperated.

"We are in a very sensitive political situation," he said in a television interview here Friday. "The four countries which I named play a major role in OPEC. If they are not in mutual agreement the oil crisis will continue. If a political understanding exists between them the world will see stable prices and a stable oil market once again."

On 28 November the 13-member cartel meeting in Vienna in a rare spirit of cooperation solved much of their differences to agree on lower overall production aimed at boosting deflated oil prices.

Aqazadeh, pointing out that output from non-OPEC producers was at its peak, predicted that demand for OPEC oil would increase at an annual rate of about one million barrels per day.

"At the moment OPEC's production is 18.5 million bpd [barrels per day]. Until the year 2,00 demand for OPEC oil will increase to 26-27 million bpd," he said.

Speaking on Iranian television's "Weekly Report" program, the oil minister denied that accepting an equal quota with Iraq at the Vienna meeting contradicted Iran's previous policy.

Iran was insisting that Iraq should not be given an increased share from OPEC as a whole but it could not stop other countries decreasing their production for the sake of Iraq, he stressed.

"In this meeting, as a whole, we reached an understanding on all outstanding issues that remained from previous years. In other words the Islamic Republic was able to get whatever it had failed to get before."

Iran had succeeded in increasing its quota to 2.64 million bpd, settled the issue of neutral-zone oil sales by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on behalf of Iraq and to clarified the quotas each member had. [sentence as received] He indicated that consensus among OPEC had also helped prices.

"We in fact did not change our position... other countries wanted to give from their own share (to Iraq). We could not resist (this offer) for long."

Aqazadeh added: "Nevertheless we met with the heads (of state branches) and the Cabinet and we explained the logic of these countries and our officials accepted it and on this basis we agreed (with the OPEC plan)."

IRNA Cites Lloyds on Naming Iraq Aggressor

LD1212163588 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] London, Dec. 12, IRNA—Iraq was not only responsible for most casualties and most deaths in the Persian Gulf but carried out attacks on merchant vessels for three years before Iran responded, says a new shipping report here.

In a review of the key events in the so-called tanker war, Lloyds List reported Monday that the attacks in the Persian Gulf was a spill over from Iraq's war against Iran "largely because of Iraqi desparation" as things started to go wrong for the regime on land.

The first recorded Iraqi raid on shipping was in May 1981 when Iraq suffered its first setbacks in its war and continued exclusively for 3 years against vessels attending Iran's main port of Bandar-e Khomeyni and then Khark Island, it said.

The report found that in 1984 Iraq's tanker war reached a new pitch when it took delivery of French Exocet missiles with their first victim being a Cypriot vessel on 1 February.

Baghdad had already caused the first fatalities as early as October 1981, when killing 2 seamen on an Indian ship, but Lloyds believed that it was Iraq's Exocet hit on Saudi-Arabian tanker "Safina al-'Arab" in April 1984 that "finally prompted Iran to retaliate."

In all, it attributed Iraq responsible for 327 shipping attacks, over 100 more than it claimed on Iran. It suggested that Baghdad's attacks succeeded in bringing in foreign navies, which only confirmed to Tehran that the war was not just with Iraq.

As Iraq's attacks extended further and further south, it was found still unable to stop the flow of Iranian oil and in the process was responsible for at least 98 of 119 vessels hit that officially were recorded as an effective total loss.

Including the killing of 37 U.S. Navy personnel on the USS Stark in May 1987, Baghdad was calculated in its raids to have left a total of 366 seafarers dead as opposed 66 victims the report registered against Iran.

The fatality list included not only Iranians, whose shipping line suffered the most attacks, but Britons, Germans, Polish, Greek, Yugoslavian, Indian, South Korean, Singaporean and especially Filipino.

Lloyds reported that the consequence of Iraq bringing the U.S. to the Persian Gulf still did not prevent an overall increase in attacks from occurring and conversely resulted in Iran gaining "prestige."

Tehran showed it could continue to retaliate "despite the heavy international pressure" and in doing so "destroying the myth that the presence of international navies would make the (Persian) Gulf a safer place."

It believed it was plain that "Iraq stood out as the most obvious attacks on (Persian) Gulf shipping" and although there was now relief that the war appeared to be over, it could only conclude that a "bad precedent had been set" without any international repercussions.

Drug Smugglers, Addicts Arrested in Lorestan

LD1212184688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] We begin this hour's news report with our Lorestan correspondent's report on the discovery of an extensive drug network, involved in the distribution of narcotics in Lorestan and Kerman Provinces:

[Correspondent] Following the implementation of new laws on severe penalties for drug dealers and addicts, a gang of drug smugglers from Lorestan and Kerman Provinces has been smashed. The commander of Lorestan's Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC] announced this in an interview with our correspondent this morning. He added:

This gang of drug smugglers had been involved in importing 80 percent of the drugs used in Khorramabad, and 40 percent of the amount used in Lorestan Province. This import took place on the country's eastern border. The gang was identified and smashed through the efforts of the personnel of Lorestan's IRC and also through the cooperation of Kerman Province's IRC. He added: In the process of smashing this gang, 90 members of the gang were arrested in Kerman and Lorestan Provinces. So far, more than 110 people have been arrested and have confessed to smuggling. The consignments included 3,300 kilograms of opium.

Furthermore, following the identification and arrest of the gang members, 12 vehicles—including buses, trailers, trucks, and passenger cars—and 4 firearms were discovered and confiscated. The commander of Lorestan's IRC spoke about the activities of his committee, and said: From the beginning of the Val-'Adiat operation in the province, more than 356,000 kilograms of opium, 515 grams of opium residue, 2.295 kilograms of heroin, and 642 grams of hashish have been discovered and confiscated. In connection with this operation 1,088 people have been arrested, one-third of whom are drug addicts. A total of 22 vehicles—including trailers, trucks, cars, and buses—have been confiscated.

Majles on Relations With U.S., Social Problems

46400033 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service: The open session of the Majles was held this morning, presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In this session, the deputies from Rasht, Barkhar, and Meymeh, Birjand and Nur spoke about the directives and the response of the imam to the letter of [former President] Carter concerning the reestablishment of relations with the United States; the elimination of social problems, particularly those of the low-income, oppressed class in connection with high prices and inflation; the request to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri to organize a seminar for the purpose of determining the work of the clerics and their duties; decisions involving foreign trade, private ownership, and security; the security of investments; the collection of increased taxes on luxury items; and the reading of the letter of the Islamic Council of the villagers of Mazandaran addressed to the speaker of the Majles.

Also in this session, the general outline of the bill to protect against radiation was ratified and the details of the bill to permit the acquisition of expenditures involving the issuance of permits to establish or renew the licenses for free scientific schools were ratified.

The report on today's open session of the Majles follows:

Elyas Hazrati, the deputy from Rasht, was the first pre-agenda speaker for today's session of the Majles. First, he considered the identification and targeting of the main enemy of the revolution as the most vital aim of the revolution. Pointing out the reason for the deviation of revolutions and movements in the world as inattention to the above problems and forgetting the main enemy as the result of various pressures or of the optimism of the leaders of such revolutions, which have ended in the renewal of relations with the main enemy, he added: With regard to our revolution, this problem was also seen in the actions and speech of the transitional government and the liberals.

They said: "We must be realistic and understand the realities that govern global conditions, bases, and relations and that these realities dictate that we move towards the United States." Thank God, this line reached a dead end with the capture of the nest of spies and with the messages of the imam. However, the United States has tried once again to establish relations with our country through military pressure and the imposition of the war, through diplomatic channels and through Japan, by sending McFarlane.

The speaker then considered the height of this effort to be the acceptance of the resolution and said: The world press escalates this problem, and some of the domestic press and the domestic ideological factions also do not dislike such efforts. But, thank God, the response of the imam to the letter attributed to Carter shows that, contrary to what many individuals imagined, our imam is the same imam, and we are the one who are bending with the twists and turns of the times and various pressures.

In the next part of his speech, the deputy from Rasht spoke about reconstruction and said: Many individuals, under the cover of and in between the lines of reconstruction, insert their demands. One speaks of political reconstruction and another of the reconstruction of foreign policy, and still others have begun criticizing the results of the 10 years of the revolution.

He emphasized that this process of reconstruction must be in line with the goals and hopes of our revolution.

In another part of his speech, Hazrati reminded the administration of the Voice and Vision and said: Instead of dismissing the Hezbollah forces and the members of the martyrs' families, take note of the fact that one particular individual expresses Freemasonic ideas in the guise of speaking about Hafez.

Then, on the occasion of Mobilization Week, the speaker said: If we want to have a 20-million-strong army, the minister of the Revolution Guard should make an appointment to come on Tuesday afternoon to speak in the Majles about the complaints and the oppressed condition of the Mobilization forces and the pressures imposed on them by people of various persuasions and tastes and ask the Majles for a solution.

In this connection, he added: If we want to establish a mobilization resistance base, we must ask the factory manager, the cleric in the mosque, and the director of the office or school to assist the Mobilization forces who have returned from the front and who are not supported by anyone in this country. Go to the prisons and see that a large number of these children who were on the front for 8 years have been imprisoned for having given an individual who has been corrupt a moral warning and directive to do well and refrain from prohibited acts. It would appear that whenever there is a quarrel between a corrupt person and a Mobilization member, the judicial offices and the Justice Department take it upon themselves to make a case against the Mobilization member, who is then thrown in jail.

Thus, he requested that the Majles and the general headquarters make some basic decisions with regard to Christians, promoting their intellectual facilities and solving their intellectual and cultural problems, and ratify a proposal to establish an independent college entrance examination for the combatants as a Mobilization Week gift to the combative forces.

Speech by Deputy From Barkhar and Meymeh

The second pre-agenda speaker of today's session of the Majles was 'Ali Panahandeh, the deputy from Barkhar and Meymeh. First, referring to the passage of 10 years since the Islamic revolution, he said: Our people, who began a revolution, had great hopes, some of which they have attained.

One of the greatest hopes was for the independence of the country. No country in this world can claim to be more independent than the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The extension of the embargo on Iran by Reagan and the aid the Russians have given to our enemy are the best evidence of our independence.

He added: Our people also wanted to move towards Islamization; in many respects this has happened. The open centers of corruption have been eliminated throughout the country, women are veiled, and the people perform their prayers, are religious, and are moving towards Islam and the Koran.

The speaker then referred to the hopes that have not yet been realized. Speaking of the present problems of the country, he said: Most of the problems concern the oppressed strata of the society. The pressures of inflation and high prices which have been imposed on this class must somehow change, and the officials in charge must know that we no longer know of any better nation than our own that has had eight years of sacred battle, with the greatest acts of self-sacrifice. Therefore, we must take care of the people of this nation so that they do not become disappointed as a result of pressure.

He added: Today, the value of money has decreased and incomes are not sufficient to meet expenditures. Therefore, this issue must be addressed as soon as possible.

Concerning the conspiracies of the enemy, the deputy from Barkhar and Meymeh said: The fascist regime of Iraq wants to keep us in the bitter purgatory of neither war nor peace—to pressure us. We must prepare ourselves both for war, which, God forbid, might begin again, and for honorable peace.

In another part of his speech, the speaker referred to several essential issues and said:

One of our problems is the overlapping centers of decisionmaking which have existed since the beginning of the revolution and still exist. Of course, there are some centers of decisionmaking which work alongside each other, such as the Majles, the Council of Guardians, and the Expediency and Discernment Council, the work of which does not create problems. However, some centers also exist which perform the same function and are fed by government money. What is the purpose of this? For example, in order to help the poor, the imam's emergency committee, the welfare agency, and the Foundation for the Oppressed each exist separately.

Why should there be several offices, books, directors, employees, cars, and telephones? Also, when we want to make propaganda, because our revolution is cultural, there are the Islamic propaganda agency, the office of Islamic propaganda, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, and the Qom Theological Center, each of which is active separately. Where else in the world does such a situation as this exist? And, unfortunately, all draw from the government budget.

When should we solve these problems? Now, 10 years have passed since the revolution. We must, therefore, think of something basic.

The deputy from Barkhar and Meymeh then referred to the role of the clerics in the society and said: Despite the responsibility of the clerics in various affairs, still the limits and specifications of their duties have not been clarified and established.

In this area, he requested that Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and other grand ayatollahs come up with some ideas, and proposed that Grand Ayatollah Montazeri organize a seminar to be held at his home to determine the limits on the activities of the clerics in various areas.

Then, addressing the prime minister, the speaker referred to the pressure of inflation and high prices, made some proposals, and said: Requesting the permission of the imam, instruct that all wells and small farms under the control of the Foundation for the Oppressed be given to the poor and the landless farmers, because small agricultural organizations cannot be operated by the administrative cadre, and if the land does not belong to the farmer, he does not work well. On the dawn of the decade of the Islamic revolution, let us take a practical step for the oppressed and change one of the slogans to "justice."

In conclusion, speaking on the problems of his constituency, the deputy from Barkhar and Meymeh addressed the officials, including those from the water outreach plan of Dasht-e Barkhar to the national industries, on the implementation of the natural gas outreach to the region, building an equipped hospital in Barkhar, asphalting the Meymeh-Hasanabad road, and providing drinking water pipes.

He also reminded various persons, companies, and establishments concerning the publication of condolence announcements.

Speech by Deputy From Birjand

Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the deputy from Birjand, was the next speaker. He thanked the prime minister and a number of the ministers for visiting Khorasan Province and the city of Birjand to familiarize themselves with the problems of the region and spoke on planning and order in the Islamic regime. He said: The most necessary, vital expenditures of the country require about $13-$15.5 billion. It is projected that we will not have more than $8-$12 billion in revenues in the future. With such projections and the situation with regard to oil, we must think of something. Problems are not going to be resolved with speeches, not even with Friday prayers sermons here and there.

The internal by laws of the Majles committees must be reformed to allow for meetings five days a week and one day of open session, to sit and plan with the experts of various offices, organizations and universities, and to implement orders and plans—concerning the foreign trade issue, for instance. Until this problem and the situation concerning private ownership are clarified and identified, the importance of investing is going to be overlooked. Also, the various councils cannot act, because they do not last long and do not have a system. If they want to survive and to continue in power, they must act within an ordered framework. Such order will be created by relying on the Majles and its committees, on strengthening the committees, and on hard work.

In terms of rials, on 4,000 billion rials, there is a deficit of 13-14 billion rials. What should we do about it? We must collect graduated taxes on luxury items in foreign currency, and we must collect graduated taxes on domestically-produced luxury items, including such items as houses and cars which are extra. There is no other way to solve this problem.

Until we have clarified the situation of private ownership and foreign trade, all problems will remain, and none of the warnings, requests and speeches will do any good.

Speech by Deputy From Nur

The last pre-agenda speaker was Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, the deputy from Nur, who first emphasized the pivotal importance of the religious guardian and said: Those who are going too fast must slow up, and those who are

going too slowly must move faster. If we have temptations in domestic and foreign policies, rest assured that the imam can bring us to absolute prosperity.

Then, pointing out that our war against oppressors will never end, and this has been emphasized by the imam, he said: We must end our internal wars. However, unfortunately, there is no understanding in the administration of this country. Differences of taste exist in terms of implementation in this country. Unfortunately, the ratifications of the Majles are sometimes held up, and the ratifications of the council on determining interests have also been held up. In order to expedite this important issue, the imam has selected the policymakers from among the best of the revolution, but their ratifications have remained in suspension. Those who do not believe in the ratifications of this council are those who do not believe in the imam, because absolute obedience would leave no room for doubt.

Referring to the conflict among the executive officials of the country, he said: Today, when we ask about the frequent blackouts, the minister of energy responds that the Ministry of Petroleum does not give him the necessary fuel. The minister of petroleum says that he has done so. Who is telling the truth, and what are we supposed to do? If problems cannot be resolved in the Cabinet, where should they be resolved? Another point is that the prime minister sends a directive to the Central Bank to postpone the collection of loan payments from farmers who have suffered a loss of 40 percent of their harvest as a result of the previous administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, but this directive has not been implemented.

Why is the order of the prime minister of the country not implemented? Why do people who lack the ability and belief not step down from their positions? Not only are farmers, who must be given priority today, not given help, but in the economic programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic, the villagers and farmers are presented as ignorant people. When the farmer sees the differences between himself and the city people, then compares the village coupons with the city coupons—which is to say, what is good is eaten by the city dwellers and the villager only watches from afar—how do you expect agriculture to expand rapidly, and how can you expect to control the migration of the villagers?

So, the city of Tehran, which has the capacity for 3 million people, is faced with a population of 9 million. Then you cry out that we have no housing and some people are living under the Hafez Bridge! Yes, as long as there is no equality in villages in terms of comfort, education, medical treatment, roads, and electricity, the villagers will not live there.

In conclusion, the deputy from Nur read a letter from the rural Islamic councils of the area of Hezar of Mahmudabad in Mazandaran Province addressed to the speaker of the Majles. This letter asked for an explanation why new rural council elections have not taken place and requested a follow-up by the government.

Agenda

After the pre-agenda speeches and the reading of the reminders of the deputies to the executive officials of the country, the Majles went into session. First, Ahmadi, the deputy from Aligudarz took the oath on the Koran. In the first round of discussions the bill for protection against radiation was examined and discussed.

The spokesman of the post, telegraph, and energy committee provided some explanations about the bill. He said: This bill, which was referred to the main committee, was examined on 19/7/67 [11 October 1988] in the presence of the representative of the government, and its general outline was ratified unanimously.

He said: This bill has five parts, including objectives, permits and responsibilities, supervision and inspection, fines and punishments, and special regulations.

This bill states: Considering the expansion of the use of radiation (rays) for various purposes and the necessity to protect the workers, the people, the future generations, and the environment against the harmful effects of radiation, a number of regulations have been devised.

The regulations of this law involve all aspects of protection against radiation throughout the country, including radiation-producing sources; working with radiation; the building, establishment, operation, starting and stopping, and management of every unit in which work with radiation takes place; and any kind of activity in connection with radiation-producing sources, including import, export, release, distribution, procurement, manufacture, ownership, acquisition, transport, trade, transaction, contract, moving, usage, or disposal.

The regulations of this law will cover non-ionization-producing radiation, provided related bylaws are prepared and ratified by the Cabinet.

Then Dr Sheybani, Movahedi-Savoji, and Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh spoke in opposition; and Ramazan Ruhaninia, 'Amid Zanjani, and Davudi-Shamsi spoke in support of the bill.

Subsequently, specifications of the bill for protection against radiation was put to a vote and ratified with a majority vote.

Bill To Permit the Aquisition of Expenditures Involving the Issuance of Permits To Establish or Renew the Licenses for Open Scientific Schools

Next on the agenda was the second round of discussions on the bill to permit the acquisition of expenditures involving the issuance of permits to establish or renew

the licenses for open scientific schools. The spokesman of the education committee provided explanations about the bill and said: This bill was examined in a meeting on 8/8/67 [30 October 1988] in the main committee and was ratified, with minor alterations.

Then, the proposals in the single article and the notes to the bill were made.

Hoseyn Harati proposed the omission of Note 2 of this bill. Those opposing and supporting the proposal spoke.

The spokesman of the committee and the representative of the government provided explanations. Then, the omission of Note 2 was put to a vote and ratified.

At 10:30, the open session of the Majles went into recess.

Paper Assails Delayed Release of Execution News
PM1212170988 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 7 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial: "There Is No Excuse for Not Printing News on Time"]

[Text] The news about the execution of six "pseudo-clergymen" was finally released last week. This item was first released by the intelligence minister who was on a trip to Zahedan and finally announced officially in a statement by the special court that deals with clergymen.

This news was revealed at a time when most people already knew about it. Some regarded it a rumor, while others saw it as one of those news items which are never published inside the country. Foreign radios were broadcasting incomplete reports obviously based on rumors, thereby regarding the situation in the country reported an increase in the number of executions. Foreign newspapers also printed their own versions.

The question is: Why was this news of the execution of the six "pseudo-clergymen" and three of their cohorts not published before the people heard it elsewhere?

The world of communications moves in seconds and the give-and-take of news takes place sometimes outside the realm of the common good. One must understand this fact and make note of this experience for now and for the future. What sort of answers do officials have for this? Why should such news be brought to the attention of the people in such an untimely manner? When this sort of item is published late, the foreign mass media do whatever they have to do with the news items—which are really not that hard to get—and make whatever use of them they want.

The fact that such items are not published on time creates a sense of mistrust among the people and makes them indifferent toward officials, precisely a situation that the country's enemies want. What reasons could our officials have for broadcasting this type of news so late?

We feel that fear of opposition groups is not relevant. The execution of six clerics on charges of moral and financial corruption shows the justice that springs forth from Islamic ideology. These opposition groups have always called this regime one of clergymen. The execution of pseudo-clerics is proof enough that all people are equal in the eyes of the law.

Under conditions when human rights organizations and Amnesty International defended the likes of Hoveyda and Nasiri—the former head of the SAVAK secret police—and condemned their executions, one must not think twice about publishing the news of the executions of people who were destroying the moral fiber of the society—even if they dressed in clerical garb.

One can diffuse all the poison spread by the Islamic Republic's enemies so long as the officials do not take a defensive position.

There is no excuse for the delay in publishing the news of the executions. The people must be informed of the actions of their officials. When this is recognized as good for the country, then why the fear? People have to recognize corrupt elements and the officials have to inform them.

Any officials or person, whether secular or cleric, who is spreading corruption and thus endangering society, must be identified to the people and tried in open court. If the verdict is death, it must be carried out. The people want justice to be carried out; there is no doubt about this.

It is necessary to inform the people; otherwise, a dangerous void will be created between the people and officials. Others will use this void to their own benefit. Publishing the news on the pseudo-clerics' executions at such a late date is like giving medicine to an already dead patient. The timely announcement of the execution of the six people who in clerical garb were corrupting society proves the type of justice the Islamic Republic is eager to promote.

Maldives

Foreign Minister on Investigation Into Attack
PM1212111788 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Dec 88 p 39

[Interview with Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel by unidentified correspondent in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel revealed to AL-HAWADITH the dimensions of the incidents his country witnessed last month when a group of mercenary invaders tried to seize the Maldive Islands and overthrow the regime there, but the sabotage attempt was thwarted and the mercenaries were arrested. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What are the results of the investigation into the reasons for the attempt?

Jameel: Tamil elements in Sri Lanka are facing popular resistance backed by Indian forces. A year ago the resistance succeeded in driving them out of their strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. So international gangs found among them the desired objective of embarking on an adventure in our country with the aim of establishing a base in which to train their cadres before moving them into neighboring countries, thus making the Maldives a den for international terrorism. We have discovered some clues about the background to the attempt.

We have uncovered some terrorist gangs, drug traders, and also gold and arms smugglers, in addition to sophisticated electronic equipment. We have also found an electronic transmission device with a range of 5,000 km. They used it to contact their bases in Sri Lanka. We have managed to trace the person who sold it to them in Europe. We now know that the device cost a large sum of money. Investigations into this matter are continuing in order to expose the international "mafia" behind the operation. A sum of $5 million was spent on the operation and arms supply.

AL-HAWADITH: Did former Maldivian President Ibrahim Nasir have anything to do with the invasion attempt?

Jameel: No. He had no connection with it. The investigations have proved this. At first some press reports made reference to Ibrahim Nasir, but it was someone else with the same name.

AL-HAWADITH: Have the investigations shown that there are bases or some foreign agents inside the country with whom contratcs were made?

Jameel: Actually, they sent some of their elements in 7 months ago to work as laborers. These took part in the operation, but when it failed they abandoned their arms and mixed with the people. Some suspects are being interrogated. Thank God, there were no traitors among the Maldivians, except two. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Has the operation affected your relations with your neighbors?

Jameel: No. The abortive terrorist operation has not affected our country's relations with the neighboring states. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Foreign Minister Returns From China, DPRK

BK1112130888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 11 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya returned to the Nepalese capital after visits to Beijing and Pyongyang, the state-run Radio Nepal said Sunday.

During his three-day official visit to Beijing, Mr Upadhyaya signed a Nepal-China boundary protocol based on survey reports prepared by a bilateral boundary inspection team early this year. The inspection was carried out under the terms of a 1963 agreement and was aimed at restoring and repairing damaged border markers.

Mr Upadhyaya told journalists on his return Saturday that he had met Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on matters of mutual interest.

He said he met Premier Li Peng to discuss Sino-Nepalese relations, political development in South Asia, Middle East issues, and the coming summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Islamabad in December.

"Nepal highly values its relationship with China. This is something which has withstood the test of time," he said.

Mr Upadhyaya said his meetings in Pyongyang with North Korean President Kim Il-sung and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam had given him an opportunity to explain Nepal's position on Korean reunification.

Mr Upadhyaya said he had discussed "various other regional and internal issues," with the two leaders.

Outlawed Party Leaders Demand Multiparty System

BK1112035288 Hong Kong AFP in English 2118 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 10 (AFP)—Leaders of Nepal's outlawed political parties issued a joint statement Saturday [10 December] demanding the reinstatement of a multi-party system and full human rights in the country.

The politicians observed the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Saturday by holding a public meeting at the compound of former Prime Minister Tanka Prasad Acharya, 77, Nepal's most senior surviving leader.

Several banned party leaders including human rights activist Prof. Rishi Kesh Shaha spoke at the meeting chaired by Mr. Acharya.

The politicians spoke out against authoritarian rule under Nepal's 28-year-old partyless panchayat system, saying it thwarted human rights, and urged the government to release all political prisoners.

The banned party leaders issued a joint press statement demanding the right to hold public meetings, free speech and freedom of the press.

The statement also demanded a halt to abuses of Nepal's Security Act, arrests without warrants and detentions of more than 24 hours without charge.

The banned party leaders also called for an immediate halt to torture of prisoners.

Japan To Give Transportation, Water Supply Grants

OW0912193688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan will provide grant assistance of 1.23 billion yen (253.38 million Nepalese rupees) to Nepal for improvement of transportation and drinking water facilities in the Kingdom.

Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between the two countries here Friday.

Of the amount, 825 million yen will be used for construction of workshop buildings, parking lots and other facilities at Nepal's public transport office.

In 1986 and 1987, Japan provided 102 passenger buses to the same office for strengthening its urban transportation facilities.

A second sum of 405 million yen will be used to provide for supply of drinking water to two cities of Palpa and Tansen in West Nepal, according to a press release by the country's Finance Ministry.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan 'Overwhelmingly' Elected President

BK1212131388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan has won the election of president overwhelmingly. Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan will take the oath of office for 5 years tomorrow afternoon.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan got 78 percent of the total votes polled, while his nearest rival, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, got 20 percent.

Issues Statement on Election

BK1212170088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan has been elected president for a 5-year term. Election of the president was held today in the Parliament in Islamabad and at the provincial assembly buildings in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan had polled 348 votes, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan 91, Mr Ahmad Ibrahim Haroon Jaffar 6, and Mr Mohammad Maruf Khan Malik 1. Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan got 78 percent of the total votes polled, while Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan got 20 percent.

Chief election commissioner, Mr Justice S.A. Nusrat, announced the results on radio and television.

The president-elect, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has thanked the members of the presidential electoral college for electing him to the highest constitutional office in Pakistan. In a statement issued immediately after his election, he assured his electors and the people at large of his unqualified determination to uphold the Constitution and secure everyone to adherance to the constitutional path, which he said was his first and foremost obligation. The president-elect said, he would, Insha'allah [God willing], never be found wanting in giving his best to the nation and serving all its causes to the best of his ability.

Receives Military Leaders

BK1312062488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Soarohey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Army Chief Mirza Aslam Beg, Air Force Chief Hakimullah Khan, and Naval Chief Vice Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this morning and congratulated him on being elected president of Pakistan.

Takes Oath of Office

BK1312111688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan took oath of office as the president this afternoon. The oath was administered by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem.

The ceremony, held at Aiwan-i Sadr [Presidency] in Islamabad was attended by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, federal ministers, members of Parliament, diplomats, and senior civil and military officials.

Benazir Bhutto Receives Vote of Confidence

BK1212153088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpt] A short while ago, the National Assembly overwhelmingly expressed its confidence in Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. One hundred and forty eight members voted in favor of and fifty five members against the prime minister. The motion of confidence was moved on behalf of the prime minister by Jahangir Badar, thus fulfilliing the constitutional requirement under which the prime minister has to secure the vote of confidence from the National Assembly within 60 days of taking the oath of office.

Mr Baz Khan Khitran from Baluchistan, Mohammad Hanif Khan from NWFP, Manzoor Ahmed on behalf of Baluchistan National Alliance, Dr Imran Farooq on behalf of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] warmly congratulated the prime minister. They said that except for Ms Benazir Bhutto, there is no other suitable personality to lead the government.

Independent member Syeda Abida Hussain, while congratulating the prime minister, said that she is the leader of a political party which has faced hardships and which has been courageously led by Ms Benazir Bhutto. The proceedings of the National Assembly are in progress. Syeda Abida Hussain prayed for the success of the prime minister. [passage omitted]

Addresses National Assembly

BK1312052088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that her government will pursue a policy of forebearance and concensus to safeguard national integrity and sovereignty, uphold democratic values, and strive for the welfare of the masses. She was addressing the National Assembly after overwhelmingly winning the vote of confidence, and said that an era has passed and another era is starting. Ms Benazir Bhutto assured the house that every step of her government would be motivated by the fundamental principles, and said that was how the masses and history would remember Pakistan. She added that her party will strictly adhere to democratic principles because it has become the ruling party as a result of the struggle for law and democracy.

The prime minister referred to her party's determination to carry out an untiring and peaceful struggle within the limits of the law, and said that although it was not an easy path, it was not given up in spite provocations and various incidents throughout the years. Ms Bhutto said that now that the party-based democracy has been restored, we should not forget who made great sacrifices for saving Qaide Azam's [great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah] Pakistan. If people had not exercised unflinching determination, the 1985 [as heard] general elections would not have taken place.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said patience and caution had remained the hallmark of her party's struggle which had been carried out within the limits of the law and the Constitution. The prime minister said her assumption of office as the first woman prime minister of an Islamic state is an historic event and the result of the sacrifices made by the people and the first elected prime minister, Martyr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who laid down their lives in the long struggle for democracy. She said the entire nation is proud of these martyrs.

The prime minister said the Pakistan People's Party firmly believe that the people alone are the fountainhead of the country's strength; if they are strong then the country will be strong and united and pursue a path of progress. Pakistan can progress only if its people are honored and served sincerely.

Ms Benazir Bhutto emphasized that Pakistan does not belong to any one party but is the destiny of the entire people, and each one of us has to shoulder his own responsibility.

Responding to objections by some religious political parties that a woman cannot become the leader of the country, the prime minister said that she is proud of achieving this distinct honor. She mentioned the role and sacrifices made by women in the independence struggle. She referred to the religious parties' support of Ms Fatima Jinnah against Ayub Khan [former president and martial law administrator], and wondered how something justifiable in 1960 became anti-Islamic in 1988.

The prime minister said this is not a matter of pride for the women's community, but an honor for the people's courageous struggle against the dictatorship in which the Pakistan People's Party played the vanguard role. The entire nation carried out a glorious struggle so that every citizen could live in peace and honor. She said that the honor bestowed on her is in fact the honor for the entire nation.

Ms Benazir Bhutto welcomed the cooperation offered by members of the opposition for the progress and construction of the country and promotion of democracy. She expressed hope that with the help of all sides she would be able to fulfill her mission to create a better future for the country.

Government Denies Air Force Downed Afghan Plane

BK1212140488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 12 (AFP)—Pakistan on Monday denied a Radio Kabul report that Pakistani Air Force (PAF) jets shot down a passenger plane killing at least 25 people in eastern Afghanistan Saturday.

The Foreign Office said in a statement issued here that the Radio Kabul report was "totally baseless and mischievous" and formed "part of a vilification campaign launched against Pakistan by the media of the Kabul regime."

"The Pakistan Air Force is under strict instructions not to intrude into the airspace of Afghanistan even in the case of grave provocation by the Kabul side resulting from repeated and unprovoked violations of Pakistani airspace," the statement added.

It said that no Pakistan Air Force planes were operating near the Afghan border on the date of the alleged shooting down of the passenger plane.

State-run Radio Kabul said in its evening radio bulletin Sunday that Pakistani jets shot down an Afghan passenger plane Saturday, killing at least 25 people. The plane was on a flight from the eastern garrison town of Khowst to Kabul, the radio said.

Spokesman Welcomes Soviet Contacts With Mujahidin
BK1312055688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the recent meetings between Soviet Ambassador Mr Vorontsov and Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, spokesman of the Islamic Unity of Afghan mujahidin, which took place in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, early this month. A Foreign Office spokesman in a statement in Islamabad has said that the Government of Pakistan considers these meetings a significant step toward replacing the current unrepresentative regime with a broad-based representative government acceptable to the Afghan people and under which Afghan refugees can return to their homes in safety.

The Government of Pakistan believes that any proposal designed to ensure survival of the current regime in Kabul against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Afghan people can only delay the return of peace to Afghanistan. The spokesman said any proposal for an international conference on Afghanistan can attain importance only if it comes from a representative administration.

The spokesman said the Government of Pakistan considers as positive President Mikhail Gorbachev's address to the UN General Assembly last week. Pakistan in particular welcomes the proposal to mold the world system according to democratic principles.

The spokesman said the Government of Pakistan takes particular note of President Gorbachev's proposals contained in his speech regarding Afghanistan, and reiterates its commitment to abide by the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan and its associated understanding.

Foreign Minister on Indian Espionage Charges
BK1112161688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The National Assembly began general discussion on the federal budget for the current year, which was submitted to the house on Thursday. [passage omitted].

The foreign minister [Sahabzada Yaqub Khan] informed the house that the government is carefully reviewing the issue of the arrest of the Pakistani military attache in New Delhi. In reply to question on short notice, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the Government of Pakistan had strongly protested to the Indian Government after learning the details of this incident. He added that the foreign secretary summoned the Indian ambassador and told him that the Government of Pakistan considers the Government of India responsible for the regrettable treatment meted out to the two officers of the Pakistani Embassy. A demand was made for an inquiry into this incident immediately and punishment of the culprits.

The foreign minister said Pakistan has rejected the allegation of espionage involving its military attache. When asked why the Government of India took action on this matter on a particular date, he said there might be several reasons for it and it is difficult to know the mind of India.

Minister of State for Information Javed Jabbar categorically informed the house that no member of the government asked the Punjab governor over telephone to delay the swearing-in of the chief minister. He said this in a statement on behalf of the leader of the house, Ms Benazir Bhutto, to keep the record right on a privilege motion. This privilege motion was rejected in the chamber itself, but the official media referred to it. Mr Javed Jabbar reiterated that the government believes in the democratic process, because it has come to power after a long democratic struggle. Therefore, the government will never interfere in the democratic process.

The house unanimously admitted a motion, in which deep sorrow was expressed over the heavy loss of life in the earthquake in the Soviet Republic of Armenia. The house observed a minute's silence in honor of those killed in the quake. The assembly expressed heartfelt sympathy with the president and the people of the Soviet Union and assured the cooperation of the people of Pakistan. This motion was introduced by the leader of the opposition Islami Jomhuri Ittehad group, (Ghulam Haider Wai) and was seconded by the law minister, Aitzaz Ahsan.

Foreign Minister on Plight of Muslims in Kashmir
BK1112122288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said Pakistan cannot remain indifferent and insensitive over repressive actions against the Muslims in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He was speaking on two identical adjournment motions in the Senate today over press reports regarding firing and killing of some innocent persons in occupied Kashmir. The foreign minister described such incidents as most unfortunate and deplorable and hoped that the authorities in occupied Kashmir would take appropriate measures to prevent further occurrence of such violent incidents. He reiterated Pakistan's desire to improve relations with India but made it clear that it did not mean that Pakistan will surrender its well known position on the Kashmir question. The motions moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmed and Mr Tariq Chowdhury were admitted.

Another adjournment motion of Professor Khurshid Ahmed regarding withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was not pressed when the foreign minister explained that under the Geneva accords about 50 percent of Soviet forces had already left Afghanistan by the 15th of August this year. He hoped that the rest of the Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan by 15th of February next as stipulated in the Geneva accords.

The house also disposed of certain other adjournment motions and decided that some of the motions would be taken up while discussing the (?earlier) law and order situation and internal policy of the government on a date to be fixed later. The house has now adjourned sine die.

New Chiefs of Radio, Television Appointed

BK0912160188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The government has decided to make some appointments with immediate effect. The appointments are as follows:
Aslam Azhar—managing director of Pakistan Television Corporation;
Agha Nasir—director general of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation;
Sheikh Hafizur Rahman—deputy chairman of the National Press Trust;
Irshad Rao—adviser to Pakistan Television Corporation;
Bashir Riaz—adviser to Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation;
Khwaja Shahid Hussain—special assistant to the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism; and
Nasir Shah—adviser to the Tourism Development Corporation.

Sri Lanka

AFP: Indian Troops Mistakenly Shell Army Camp

BK1312101088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (AFP)—Indian troops mistakenly shelled a Sri Lankan Army camp in the island's east in confusion during a battle with Tamil guerrillas in which five militants died, military sources said here Tuesday [13 December].

Indian forces manning a post at Sumedagama in coastal Trincomalee District opened a barrage of mortars Monday at the Sri Lankan camp opposite which had been attacked by guerrillas, the sources said.

The militants, from the left-wing Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), came in a truck, lobbed grenades at Sri Lankan soldiers and ran across the road to take cover with the Indians when they came under attack. The Sri Lankans fired several rounds, killing five EPRLF members, but others managed to escape, the sources said.

In the confusion, Indian troops opened fire, sending several mortar bombs into the Sri Lankan camp and wounding at least three soldiers. Five other people, including a Buddhist monk, were injured in the crossfire. It was not immediately known if the Indians had suffered any loss.

The sources said the commander of the 50,000-strong Indian peace keeping force (IPKF), Lieutenant General Amarjit Singh Kalkat, was due to meet Tuesday with Sri Lankan Army heads to sort out the differences. New Delhi began deploying troops in the island's north and east under a 1987 bilateral peace pact that sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

The sources said an EPRLF member had tried to snatch a gun from a Sri Lankan policeman three days ago and had been wounded by Sri Lankan soldiers during the attempt. Since then, the rebels had been itching for revenge.

The EPRLF is a pro-Indian group which controls the North-Eastern Provincial Council. It is violently opposed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main Tamil group, which unlike the EPRLF has refused to accept the 1987 peace agreement.

TULF Supports Leftist Presidential Candidate

BK1212072588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 12 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party Monday urged the island's two million Tamil minority to vote for the leftist presidential candidate in the December 19 vote.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) said it was backing Ossie Abeygoonesekera, 38, of the Sri Lanka Mahajana (People's) Party (SLMP) as he "tried to promote peace between Sinhalese and Tamils."

The other candidates are Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, 65, of the ruling United National Party (UNP), and former premier Sirima Bandaranaike, 72, of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP).

"Among the three, (the person) who has tried to promote peace between the (majority) Sinhalese and the Tamil-speaking people on the basis of justice and equality is Mr. Abeygoonesekera.

"The TULF therefore appeals to the Tamil-speaking people to vote for Mr. Abeygoonesekera and strengthen the genuine forces for peace, equality and justice," TULF Secretary General Appapillai Amirtghalingam said in a statement.

Political analysts have said that the minority Tamil and Moslem votes would be crucial in the election as Sinhalese votes have been traditionally divided almost equally between the UNP and SLFP. Mr. Abeygoonesekera has said he was confident of getting minority support.

A small but influential Moslem party over the weekend said it will not take sides in the presidential battle and instead will concentrate on contesting the February 15 parliamentary elections.

Mr. Abeygoonesekera is the only candidate supporting a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign by devolving more autonomy to the Tamils.

Mrs. Bandaranaike has said she will scrap the peace pact under which New Delhi has nearly 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east while Mr. Premadasa says he will exchange it for a "friendship treaty."

Tamil Views on Presidential Candidates Reported
BK1312094088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 13 Dec 88

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (AFP)—Tamil response to the three Sri Lankan presidential candidates reveals the minority community's continued distaste for the island's mainstream politics, political observers here say.

Most Tamil political parties and groups have asked the two million Tamil community to back the left-wing candidate, Ossie Abeygoonesekera, described as one of the few Sinhalese politicians who has advocated peace with Tamils. The Sinhalese form 74 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16.4 million people, and virtually all political parties in the ethnically-divided island are made up of Sinhalese.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, Monday [12 December] asked Tamils to vote for Mr. Abeygoonesekera in the December 19 election and strengthen "the genuine forces for peace, equality and justice". Mr. Abeygoonesekera, 38, belongs to the Sri Lanka Mahajana (People's) Party (SLMP).

The Tulf dismissed the two other contenders, Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of the ruling United National Party (UNP) and former premier Sirima Bandaranaike of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), saying successive UNP and SLFP governments had made life miserable for Tamils.

Those governments, TULF leader Appapillai Amirthalingam said here, had subjected Tamils to "injustice, discrimination and violent repression, resulting in incalculable human suffering, death and destruction." The TULF's appeal is widely seen as reflecting the Tamils' desire to keep away from the UNP and SLFP, the main Sinhalese-dominated parties.

At least three other Tamil groups have also expressed support to Mr. Abeygoonesekera, while Tamil residents in Northern and Eastern Provinces admit there is no great enthusiasm for the two main presidential candidates. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a leftist Tamil guerrilla group turned political party, is actively backing Mr. Abeygoonesekara and has provided armed security guards for him. He is also supported by the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF), while the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) Tuesday appealed to Tamils to ignore Mr. Premadasa and Mrs. Bandarnaike.

Sri Lankan voters—numbering 9.4 million, including an estimated one million Tamils—can vote for two candidates as their first and second choice. The TELO said in a statement that Tamils were "duty bound to cast their first vote to Mr. Abeygoonesekera", and said there was "absolutely no reason whatsoever for our people to consider casting their second vote for any of these two parties (SLFP and UNP)."

The dominant Tamil group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), are reportedly supporting Mrs. Bandaranaike, but there has been no public statements by them. Both Mr. Premadasa and Mrs. Bandaranaike are opposed to the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact, which sought to end a Tamil campaign for a homeland and under which India has some 50,000 troops in Sri Lanka's north and east.

Mr. Premadasa on Monday flew to the northern Tamil town of Jaffna, a former rebel stronghold, for the first time in six years and addressed a crowd of some 3,000. Witnesses said there were only 500 people to listen to him when he flew to Vavuniya, another Tamil town later. They were the first election meetings in the Tamil-dominated north, though public meetings have been going on elsewhere for several weeks.

"It doesn't look like that," said a PLOTE spokesman here, asked if there was any enthusiasm about the upcoming presidential vote in Tamil areas. He added there was no visible interest among the Tamil people. Said a Tamil resident of eastern Batticaloa Town: "Nobody here is backing any of them. They are all equally bad. What did they do for us when times were rough for us?"

The resident, a respected moderate leader, said the distaste was more for Mr. Premadasa and Mrs. Bandaranaike because of their "anti-India, anti-IPKF stand". The Indian troops are called the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF).

Mr. Premadasa did not refer to the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement or Indian troops in his Jaffna and Vavuniya speeches Monday, though he has been critical of them while addressing Sinhalese voters.

New Chief Minister on LTTE, Other Issues
BK1312091388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0839 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The new chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has expressed the hope that the next president of Sri Lanka will not harm the present provincial government, but cooperate with it.

Speaking to a group of Indian correspondents in Jaffna, the new chief minister said the ruling party candidate, Mr Premadasa, has assured full support to the new government in the province.

He said the newly set up Citizens Voluntary Force, CVF, will monitor the activities of the LTTE and deal with law and order problems. In the next 6 months, the strength of the CVF will be raised to 5,000 from the present 12,000 [as heard]. Answering questions, Mr Perumal said the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] can leave Sri Lanka as soon as complete peace and democracy are restored. His cabinet colleagues, Mr Kirupakaran and Mr Ganesalingam, were present at the press meet.

EROS Becomes Political Party With New Name

BK1212165288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the chief minister of Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has warned the LTTE that stringent measures will be taken to counter them if they continue the path of violence. Appealing to the LTTE to join with them for the good of the people, Mr Perumal said that violence will not solve any problem. Addressing his first public meeting last evening after taking over as the chief minister, Mr Perumal announced that from the 14th of this month curfew will be relaxed for 2 hours. He disclosed that nine LTTE prisoners have been released and more will follow in a couple of days. Our correspondent Samudaram reports that a large number of people from far-flung areas attended the meeting, signifying their support to the newly elected government.

In another development, the Sri Lankan Tamil militant organization [EROS], has become a political party with a new name: Eelavar Democratic Front. The decision considered to be a major breakthrough in the political scene of the Northeastern Province was announced by its leader, Mr Balakumar, in Jaffna today.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Premadasa, today launched his campaign for the presidential poll in the north, visiting Jaffna for the first time after 6 years. In an interview to AIR correspondent Sebastian Robert, he said discussions were held with various parties, including the EPRLF, on the issue of devolution package.

JVP Announces Curfew Before 19 Dec Elections

BK1312091088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Colombo, Dec 13 (AFP)—Anti-government militants Tuesday [13 December] announced a curfew ahead of the December 19 Sri Lankan presidential elections and warned newspapers not to publish details of the election campaign.

The Sinhalese extremist group, Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), said in posters secretly pasted up around the city that there would be a 48-hour curfew from midnight Saturday.

"The three candidates are poodles of (Indian Premier) Rajiv Gandhi. This election is a cricket match for Gandhi. We will not accept the outcome of it," the posters signed by the JVP said. The posters also asked election officials to stay away from work on polling day.

Newspaper editors here said they received warning letters claiming to be from the JVP telling them to immediately stop publishing all news, cartoons, editorials and even paid advertisments relating to the elections or face the consequences. "We believe the letter is genuine. But we cannot put out a newspaper without election news. Come what may, we will have to ignore the letter," an editor of a privately-owned Sinhalese language daily said.

The JVP has threatened serious repercussions for anyone who disobeys the order, saying they will be treated as "coward Indian stooges." [passage omitted] Faced with increased JVP threats, the government has ordered troops to shoot anti-government activists on sight and empowered police to dispose of the bodies without the need for an inquest.

JVP Activists Steal Presidential Polling Cards

BK1212071288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 12 (AFP) - Anti-government Sinhalese militants stormed post offices and robbed thousands of polling cards ready for mailing, a military spokesman here said Monday.

Activists of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or people's liberation front) attacked scores of post offices over the weekend and removed the election documents for the December 19 presidential vote, the spokesman said. However, election officials said people could still vote without the polling card though it may create additional work for officials manning polling stations. The government has said that the group was planning to disrupt the polls. The JVP is demanding general elections before the presidential poll.

In other developments, JVP militants torched a private bus in Colombo and two more elsewhere Sunday, the spokesman said.

Officials said at least 32 people were killed in politically motivated violence Saturday.

The JVP has been accused of killing over 500 ruling party supporters, security personnel and other rivals in the past 15 months.

Hindu Group Warns Against Abrogating Peace Pact
BK1212050988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 12 (AFP)—A leading Hindu group has warned against the abrogation of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, saying such a step would result in further violence in the island nation, newspapers reported Monday.

A unilateral scrapping of the 1987 pact, which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign, would result in "renewed fighting between the Tamils and the government," the Council of Hindu Organisations said in a statement. Most of Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority are Hindus.

The two main candidates to the December 19 presidential election have spoken against the accord, with former Premier Sirima Bandaranaike threatening to abrogate it if she was voted to power.

The government-owned DAILY NEWS quoted the group as saying that its abrogation "would also confirm the existing fear in the Tamil mind that the Sinhalese would not honour any pact." All three presidential nominees are Sinhalese, who form the majority community in Sri Lanka. "The ultimate outcome may be separation which the Sinhalese and Tamils equally dislike," it said.

The accord has been rejected by the dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), but accepted by other moderate as well as militant Tamil groups. Under the peace pact, India has deployed some 50,000 troops on a peacekeeping mission in the island's Tamil-populated northern and eastern provinces.

263 'Suspected Subversives' Arrested
BK0912132388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1208 GMT 9 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—The security forces yesterday arrested 263 suspected subversives in cordon and search operations. Two hundred and fifty of them were taken into custody at Medirigiriya in the north Central Province, 220 kilometres from Colombo, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. The arrests were made following an abortive attack on the Medirigiriya police station in the early hours of yesterday morning in which one insurgent was killed. An Elf-truck [as received] used in the attack was found abandoned, along with a suitcase containing drugs and medical equipment which could be used for minor surgery.

Among yesterday's victims of terrorism were two little children, a girl and a boy, who were wounded and warded in hospital for emergency surgery. Official sources said the Sri Lanka Transport Board bus in which they were travelling, on the Bibile-Lunugala road in the Monaragala District, 250 kilometres south east of Colombo, was attacked by subversives who hurled bombs and fired at the vehicle. One alleged subversive who attempted to escape during a search operation was shot dead by security forces at Payagala, 50 kilometres south of Colombo. The sources said seven suspects were also arrested in Payagala and six others in Bulathsinhala in the Kalutara District. They allegedly confessed to involvement in several recent killings.

Subversives fired at security forces who were engaged in defusing an improvised explosive device placed about 100 yards from the residence of the member of parliament for Bibile at Medagama, Bibile, 285 kilometres east of Colombo. The report states the insurgents fled when the security forces counterattacked.

One soldier was killed and another injured when a gang of 25 subversives armed with shotguns and automatic rifles ambushed an army patrol on the Galenbindunuwewa-Seepukulama road at Anuradhapura in the North Central Province, 205 kilometres from Colombo between 1900 hours and 2000 hours (local time) yesterday. Official sources said police arrested a suspect in possession of a locally made hand bomb at Kotahena in Colombo north yesterday.

Meanwhile, a report from Galle, 173 kilometres south of Colombo states one civilian was killed and another injured when a booby trapped push cycle exploded about one hundred yards from the main bus station.

A supporter of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) was shot and injured when he was decorating the stage for an SLFP meeting at Aranayake, Kegalle, 77 kilometres north east of Colombo. Another report states that unidentified gunmen shot and wounded R.M. Muthubanda and his wife at Minhetiya-Rakawa in the North Western Province district of Kurunegala. Muthubanda's wife succumbed to her injuries in hospital.

Delhi: 27 People Killed in Violent Incidents
BK1012160988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Twenty-seven people have been killed in the continued extremists violence in central and southern parts of Sri Lanka. At least 9 supporters of the ruling United National Party were killed and 7 injured when a bomb was thrown at a group at Walapane in the Kandy District this morning, while the security forces recovered 12 bodies from 3 different places in Matara District. All the 12 victims are believed to be JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists. Five persons, including a principal of a school, were killed in separate incidents in Moneragala District, while a UNP supporter was shot dead in Kurunegala District yesterday.

A powerful bomb was exploded at the overseas telecommunication complex in the capital, Colombo, disrupting international telecommunication link between Sri Lanka and the rest of the world for several hours. There were no casualties. Extremists also derailed a goods train carrying food and fuel from Colombo to Trincomalee at Kalawewa in Anuradhapura District. Nobody was killed or injured.

Meanwhile, the newly elected Northeast Provincial Council formally assumed charge of the government in Trincomalee today with the swearing in of all the remaining ministers. The council, which met twice today, was later adjourned till Thursday. The Cabinet of the Northeast Province also had a short meeting and discussed the groundwork to be taken up for the effective functioning of the council.

An official spokesman in New Delhi has welcomed the continued progress in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. The spokesman also welcomed the adoption of a bill in Sri Lanka Parliament giving equal status to Tamil with Sinhala language. This was the long-standing demand of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

JVP Frees 5 From Kandy Prison; Weapons Stolen

BK1112160288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists dressed in Army uniform entered the Kandy prison and freed five prisoners. Agency reports, quoting police and military officials in Colombo, said in the daring attempt last night the militants also took away 50 weapons from the prison armory. The incident took place at gunpoint. In another incident, one JVP extremist and a policeman were killed in an exchange of fire when the extremists tried to set ablaze the election office in Kegalla early this morning.